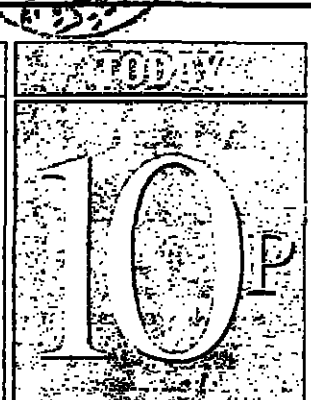
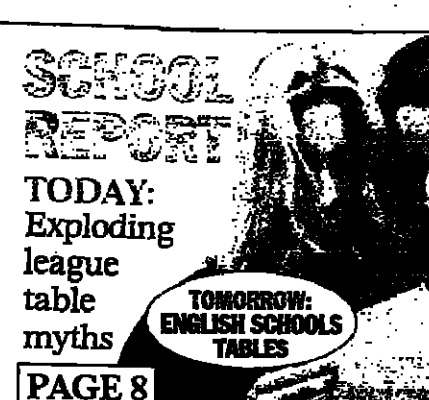
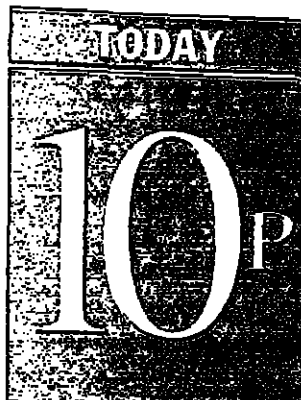


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Apology over Formula One fiasco

Blair promises tough rules on party funding

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Watt

TONY BLAIR today follows up a public apology for his handling of the Formula One debacle with the promise of a swift shake-up of the political funding system designed to give Britain a "healthier democracy".

After going on television yesterday to "take full responsibility" for an affair that has led to the worst crisis of his premiership, Mr Blair today backs national limits on amounts spent by the parties, "modest" ceilings on individual and company donations, and the publication of the names of donors and the amounts they give.

The moves mark a sustained effort by Mr Blair to recover his moral authority in the country, which Labour clearly fears may have been undermined.

Writing in *The Times* Mr Blair says that, if necessary, he will legislate to force all parties to open up their books about future donations in order to ensure a "level playing field". He calls for the "toughest possible set of rules" about funding, and stringent measures to prevent loopholes and avoidance through a proper policing of the system. He even suggests that business funding might be ended altogether in his vision of a "completely new world of electoral finance".

Yesterday, obviously shaken by the affair, Mr Blair admitted he had failed to focus seriously enough on the issue and agreed that the way information had emerged in a piecemeal way was unsatisfactory.

He admitted that he was "hurt and upset" because he had not expected that people would "impute his motives". But he accepted that it had not been handled well

and he took full responsibility. However, Mr Blair remained unrepentant both about the decision to allow a longer exemption to Formula One for a European-wide ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship, and about his decision to meet Bernie Ecclestone, the boss of Formula One, on October 16 when the Government was considering ways of preventing the proposed ban damaging British sport.

It was a high-risk decision by Mr Blair to offer himself for an interview with John Humphrys on BBC's *On the Record* programme.

6 We will learn the lessons. Out of the difficulties of the past week can come changes that make for a healthier democracy

Tony Blair writes, page 22

It was driven by fears that his strong personal standing with the public, Labour's biggest asset, was in danger of being damaged as a result of the row.

Within Downing Street there is huge regret that all the facts surrounding the Ecclestone donation, and the decision to turn down further gifts, were not released earlier, as some of Mr Blair's most senior aides had recommended.

Mr Blair admitted yesterday: "It should not have come out in dribs and drabs and we should have focused on this earlier... I am sorry about this issue. I should have

realised it was going to blow up into this kind of importance but I have honestly done what I thought was best for the country all the way through."

There were also clear indications last night that the policy which has caused all the trouble could still be changed. Mr Blair made plain that the outcome on the tobacco ban would be decided in negotiations with the European Union, and there were hints that the proposed ten-year exemption for Formula One could eventually be lowered.

In spite of a robust performance, in which he emphasised time and again that he would never change a policy purely because a Labour Party donor would benefit, the Prime Minister failed to clear away all the confusion and doubts that have surrounded the saga.

In the interview Mr Blair said for the first time that he had decided not to accept a further donation from Mr Ecclestone, on top of the £1 million he had given in January, as soon as the Government decided that it would push for an exemption for Formula One.

He also admitted that he wrote to Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, the day after the Ecclestone meeting saying that the position of sport and particularly Formula One would have to be protected. But he said that there was no conflict of interest at that time because the Government had not decided on the exemptions.

Mr Blair also said he was ready to publish the names of all Labour donors since 1992, provided the Conservatives did the same.

BBC interview, page 2
Peter Riddell, page 22

Kate Bushell: popular, talented and lively churchgoing teenager who loved sport and music

Murdered girl, 14, found in field by her father

By Simon de Bruxelles

A FATHER found his 14-year-old daughter murdered in a field after she failed to return from walking a neighbour's dog.

Kate Bushell had been killed with a sharp instrument, probably a knife, and may have been sexually assaulted, the police said yesterday. The girl, described as "popular, talented and lively" by her headmaster, took the Jack Russell for an early evening walk near her home on the outskirts of Exeter on Saturday.

Her parents raised the alarm when she failed to return by nightfall. Jeremy Bushell was showing a policeman his daughter's likely route down a muddy lane 300 yards from their home when he found the fully clothed body in the field near a stile. A Home Office pathologist was last night trying to establish whether the schoolgirl had been sexually assaulted.

Detective Superintendent Michael Stephens, who is heading the inquiry, told a news conference: "This was a murder of a young innocent girl who was brutally killed just outside a residential area on the outskirts of Exeter."

Mr Stephens described Kate as a churchgoing teenager who loved sport and music. She played the piano, clarinet and saxophone and was a keen basketball player. She left home at 4.30pm, just as it was beginning to get dark, wearing a turquoise green kagoule and dark trousers and said she would be out no more than 20 minutes. It was the first time she had taken the dog out. Her parents telephoned the police at 6.44pm. At 7.35pm her father found the body with the dog near by.

Walk to death, page 3

Compensation for workers

The Government will today admit that Britain broke European law on workers' rights for more than a decade, paving the way for millions of pounds in compensation.

Public sector workers suffered sweeping cuts in pay and benefits when their jobs were transferred to the private sector in the 1980s. Page 28

Henman's title

Tim Henman eased to victory at the national championships in Telford, while Pete Sampras confirmed his continuing domination of the world game. Page 28

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Saudi nurse is spared after death right waived

By Dominic Kennedy

THE British nurse Deborah Parry, who was facing beheading for murder in Saudi Arabia, had her life spared yesterday when the brother of her alleged victim told a court he was waiving his right to demand the death penalty.

Frank Gilford's action also removes the threat of 500 lashes from Lucille McLauchlan, who has already been convicted for her part in the killing.

Mr Gilford, brother of the alleged victim Yvonne Gilford, is now entitled to a \$1.7 million (£700,000) settlement, described by some as "blood money", which was brokered with the help of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

Ms Parry's life was saved in a two-hour hearing at the High Sharia Court in Al-Khobar before the judge, Shaikh Saleh Haidan. The procedure was divided into two sessions by a break for midday prayers.

Ghassan Al Awaji of the International Law Firm in Riyadh, who has power of attorney for Mr Gilford, pre-

sented a waiver document and signed the court record. The hearing was attended by the British Consul Lawson Ross and his Australian counterpart Hugh Wilson, reflecting the high-level diplomatic involvement in the deal to save the two nurses.

Michael Abbott QC, the Australian lawyer who represents Mr Gilford, called last night for the money, which he described as compensation, to be handed over within the week. The sum is held in trust



Gilford: £700,000 deal

by a large law firm in Australia. Most will go to a hospital for women and children in Adelaide, which will receive \$1 million in memory of Ms Gilford.

Mr Gilford will get \$50,000 himself, and Muriel Gilford, the bereaved mother, gets \$17,000. The rest will pay for legal bills. Anything left will go to charity.

Because the Gilfords have waived their right to demand the death penalty, Ms Parry, from Alton, Hampshire, faces a sentence of only about five years and no physical punishment.

Ms McLauchlan, from Dundee, has already been sentenced to eight years plus lashes, but this will be reduced because it would be unfair for her to get a more severe sentence than Ms Parry, allegedly the main culprit.

Lawyers on both sides are now awaiting the conviction and sentence of Ms Parry. The nurse can then either begin an 18-month appeal process or throw herself on the mercy of the King.

Yeltsin emerges as Iraq peacemaker

By Ian Brodie in Washington and Michael Evans

PRESIDENT YELTSIN has promised to intervene in the confrontation between the United Nations and Iraq over weapons inspections.

The commitment was given in a weekend telephone call between the Russian leader and President Clinton.

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, also spoke on the phone to Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, and it was agreed that Moscow would use its "special relationship" with Iraq to try to resolve the crisis.

In a statement the Kremlin said: "Russia firmly intends to take the most active steps aimed at a peaceful end to the Iraq crisis."

As a second American aircraft carrier, the USS *George Washington*, steamed towards the Gulf, Mr Clinton warned of the dangers of President Saddam Hussein acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

He told an audience in California that the showdown with Saddam over UN weap-

ons inspectors was not a replay of the Gulf War but a battle against organised forces of destruction.

"Think about it in terms of the innocent Japanese who died in the subway when the sarin gas was released and how important it is for every responsible government in the world to do everything possible not to let big stores of chemical or biological weapons fall into the wrong hands," Mr Clinton said.

Eleven commuters died and 5,000 were injured more than two years ago when a religious sect released the nerve gas from their store of several tonnes of chemicals, estimated by the authorities to be enough to kill five million people.

Mr Clinton won the full support of Tony Blair for tough action against Saddam, during a telephone call over the weekend. Mr Clinton also spoke to France's President Chirac and asked him to intervene with Baghdad.

Israeli threat, page 12
Germ war stocks, page 15

Battlelines drawn over new Pegasus Bridge museum

By Peter Foster

THE battlelines are being drawn for fresh hostilities at Pegasus Bridge, the much fought over site of the first D-Day liberation from German occupation in the Second World War.

French authorities have now agreed to build a new museum to commemorate the recapture of Pegasus Bridge by airborne troops. Their decision is likely to rekindle a long-running and acrimonious campaign over the site and could

mean that shortly there will be rival museums pitching for the attention of veterans and tourists.

Until October, there had been for quarter of a century an Airborne Forces Museum in a building leased from Arlette Gondrée, present owner of the Pegasus Bridge café which was the first building in mainland Europe liberated from the Germans. The decision to build a new museum is intended to end the dispute between Mme Gondrée and a vociferous group

of veterans who include Major John Howard, the man who led the airborne assault 50 years ago.

Mme Gondrée, however, seems in no mood to be outflanked. Last night she attacked the new memorial which she said was in danger of becoming a theme park. "People can see the danger of a Disneyland," she said. She now plans a rival exhibition room on the first floor of the old museum to commemorate the D-Day events.

When the lease expired in June Mme

Gondrée first tried to recapture the museum and, in an ensuing fracas, was allegedly thrown over a fence by its curator. Later, armed with a repossession order, she made a successful assault, sending the 8,000 exhibits to a storage depot in nearby Caen.

Major Howard, now 83, was very satisfied by the decision last night. "This news has cheered me up immensely," he said. "I'm very keen we get started immediately."



The honeymoon is over despite effort to make up

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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 1997

Last walk of a friendly neighbour

Helpful pupil Kate was killed doing a good turn

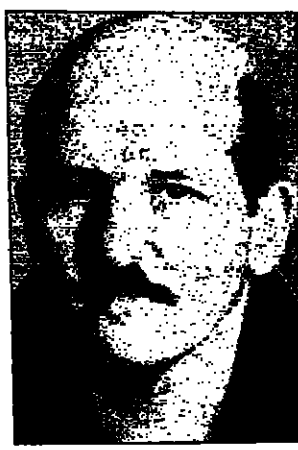
BY SIMON DE BRUNELLES

DARKNESS was beginning to fall as Kate Bushell put on her turquoise cagoule and told her parents she was going out for no more than 20 minutes to walk the neighbour's Jack Russell, Gemma.

She had volunteered so that the neighbours could go away for the weekend, a gesture friends said was typical of Kate who would go out of her way to help anyone. The route she took along Exwick Lane divides the private estate of modern red-brick boxes from the unspoilt countryside beyond.

Exwick is a sprawling suburb which meanders up the hillside on the other side of the river and railway line from Exeter city centre. At 4.30 on Saturday evening it would still have been possible to look out over the rooftops to the 11th-century cathedral of St Peter's.

When their daughter did not return Kate's parents Jeremy, 44, and Susan, 41, became concerned. The murder team of 30 officers, who yesterday sealed off the lane where the body was found and began house to house inquiries, have little to go on. They do not know whether Kate's killer was lying in wait for a victim, had followed her from



Maddern: he said Kate was a model pupil

home or may even have arranged to meet her in the unlit lane.

The headteacher of St Thomas's High School where Kate was a "model" pupil said it had been the 14-year-old's ultimate ambition to go to Oxford. Steve Maddern said: "Kate Bushell certainly had the academic ability. She was a popular, talented and lively girl, and her murder hits at the core of our school."

More immediately, she had her debut with the school's basketball team to look forward to this week. She was also a member of the school

orchestra. Mr Maddern met Kate's parents yesterday afternoon. He described them as "distraught" and said: "One thing Kate's mother said to me was that you never had to remind her to do her homework. In fact she had done half of her weekend's homework before taking the dog for a walk."

A lone bouquet was tied to the gates of the 1,200 pupil high school with the words "Why? You will always be missed" written on a note attached to it.

Mr Maddern said: "Kate had a promising future and was a keen musician. She had a ready smile and was fun to be with. She was intelligent, co-operative and mature in her outlook. She was everything you could hope for in a student. Her loss will be felt throughout the school and we are making special assembly and counselling arrangements tomorrow to help students and staff come to terms with this dreadful tragedy."

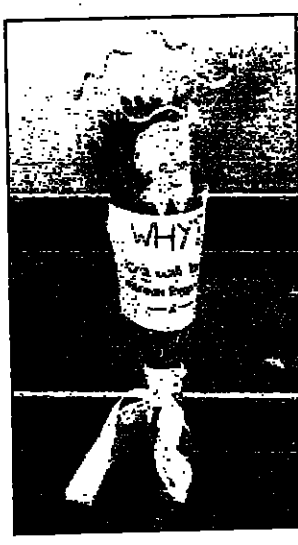
"Students and staff will be shocked and numb by this awful news and our hearts go out to Kate's family and friends who will be devastated by the loss of one so young who had everything to live for. We can only hope that the police catch whoever is responsible for this sickening crime as quickly as possible."

Prayers were said for her at the Sunday morning service held by the evangelical Isca Fellowship where the Bushell family worship. Church elder Stephen Randall said: "Kate was the least likely girl I can imagine this happening to. Our reaction is one of pure horror." Mr Randall, 36, described how Kate was involved in raising funds for Bosnian charities and was a regular helper at the church which meets in a local school.

The family moved to their modern, three-bedroom detached home in Exwick seven years ago. Mr Bushell is believed to have taken early retirement from his job with Devon county council's education department last year to devote his time to charitable work in Bosnia. Another neighbour said he had recently returned from an aid trip to the Balkans. By an unlikely



Police standing guard at the lane in Exwick, where Kate Bushell, 14, was found murdered after walking a neighbour's dog. Below, flowers left at the scene, and the house to which the Bushells moved seven years ago



coincidence, the murder victim Lin Russell, who was killed in a frenzied hammer attack in Kent 18 months ago, lived in the same street when her husband, Shaun, was a lecturer at the university in the mid-1970s.

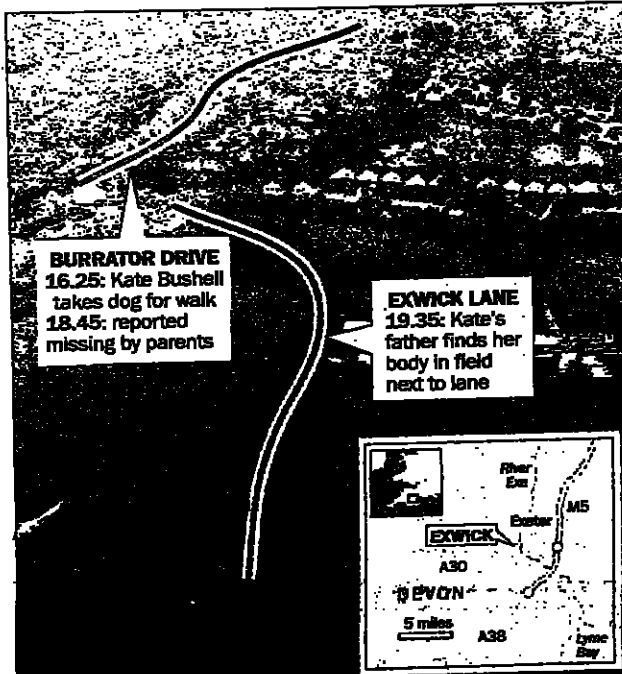
Many people walk their dogs in the same narrow lane which passes close to the Guide Dogs for the Blind's

national training centre at Cleve House. Emma Browne, aged 14, one of Kate's best friends, laid flowers close to the spot where she was killed. She said: "I don't know how anyone could do something like this to Kate. She wouldn't harm anyone. It is such a shame because she was so brainy and she would have got very good GCSEs."

She would always help others and never do anything to put anyone else down. There have been rumours going around about the lane where she was killed. I would not have gone up there before this happened and I certainly will not do so now."

Other local youngsters said there had been rumours about people being chased down the

narrow lane last year and they had stayed away from it. Jill Daniel, a neighbour, said: "I did not know the girl very well but I did see her out walking a friend's dog while I was walking my spaniel. The lane where she was killed is very popular with dog walkers and leads down past the Blind Dog centre towards open fields."



BURRATOR DRIVE 16.25: Kate Bushell takes dog for walk 18.45: reported missing by parents

EXWICK LANE 19.35: Kate's father finds her body in field next to lane

Mother loses children on 'technicality'

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN has been ordered to uproot her children and take them to her estranged husband in France after she succeeded in using the Hague Convention on child abduction to secure their return. The children, aged 12 and 9, had only lived for nine months of their lives in France.

Hélène Lawrence left Newhaven on Friday to meet a High Court deadline for her to comply with the custody order obtained by her husband.

Normally the Hague Convention on child abduction is used in "rug of love" cases where one parent illegally seizes children from the other and absconds from their country of residence.

This order was granted to British-born David Lawrence, an electrical engineer living near Paris, after the couple decided to move to France last autumn with their two children, Edward, 12, and Gabrielle, 9. Nine months later, in July, the relationship broke down and Mrs Lawrence, 45, who has lived in Britain for 20 years although she is French-born, returned to her home in Hampshire. Her husband successfully

made an application under the Hague Convention, although normally a custody order would not be granted where children had been resident in the country from which they had been removed for less than a year.

Mrs Lawrence said yesterday that the children were devastated at having to leave school and their friends again. She is in touch with Reunite, the national council for abducted children, which is concerned that she fell foul of a legal technicality because she did not go to a solicitor with expertise in child abduction law. Denise Carter, the director, said: "Our view is that the court should never have granted this application. It should have looked more carefully at the case."

"These children had only been in France for nine months and therefore it is questionable whether it could not really be called their country of habitual residence." But, because Mrs Lawrence had agreed willingly to follow her husband to France, that had counted against her in determining the children's habitual residence.

Missing girl, 13, may be on her way to Spain

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

AIRPORTS and ports were put on alert yesterday for a 13-year-old girl believed to have run off with a customer she met at her mother's bar on the Costa del Sol.

Police fear Sally Claydon secretly kept in touch with the 47-year-old man known as Bruce after returning to her home in Harlow, Essex, from Fuengirola earlier this month. The blonde teenager vanished with her passport and summer clothes on Saturday.

Sergeant Karen Brimston, of Essex Police, said Sally looked mature for her years and

could be travelling in a white Transit van. "The indications are that she is leaving the country, possibly heading back to Spain," she said.

Sally's mother, Sharon Walsh, who ran the Captain Hook bar in Fuengirola before returning to Britain on November 3, is said to be distraught. Her daughter had met "Bruce" often in the bar but, unknown to her, had kept in touch after they returned to Britain on the same ferry.

She discovered the relationship only when she found her missing on Saturday night and could not find her despite numerous telephone calls to friends. Sergeant Brimston said that, although Sally had pretended to her mother that she had hated Spain, she told schoolfriends that she had had a wonderful time.

"Pieces of the jigsaw are all fitting together. It has all been planned," she said. "She apparently changed a lot in Spain. She's only taken the more adult clothes, like skimpy dresses, and left her more childish things behind. She has told her schoolfriends she is not a schoolgirl anymore and is more like 21."



Sally Claydon: may be headed for Fuengirola

Italian taste for spice turns sour

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALY, which invariably gives a warm welcome to British pop groups, should have been the place where the Spice Girls halted the sudden downward spiral of Girl Power and relaunched themselves on a wave of adoration. It didn't quite work out that way.

Instead, Italians gave them the thumbs down at the weekend, comparing them unfavourably to Oasis — the real voice of today's neo-pop, not a passing synthetic creation — who were rapturously received in Bologna and who are eagerly awaited today in Milan.

To make matters worse the girls' hotel on the Via Veneto was abuzz with rumours — denied all round — that Emma Bunton (Baby Spice), the alleged cause of the band's troubles because of her "relationship" with Simon Fuller,

their sacked manager, had chosen Rome to seal the band's demise by absconding with him. Hotel staff confirmed that Bunton had left the building "before dawn" for "a rendezvous", and had missed breakfast.

By coincidence — or not, since he presumably knew their European tour schedule by heart — Rome was where Mr Fuller took refuge after being fired.

But Bunton returned and appeared with the other four on television yesterday afternoon. Geri Halliwell (Ginger Spice) pointedly told the audience on the afternoon chat show *Domenica In* (Sunday In): "We are all together." But they performed only one song and left before the bemused presenter could ask them anything. He was left gazing at their departing backs

as they called "Arrivederci" over their shoulders.

Only a month ago, the Italians were hailing the Spice Girls — along with the England football team — as the vanguard of Tony Blair's Britain. But the gloss appears to have worn off. "Not so spicy after all," said the headline in *La Repubblica* yesterday. "Spice Girls land in a desert of fans," declared *Il Messaggero*.

The contrast with Oasis could hardly have been sharper. "The difference is obvious," said *Corriere della Sera*. "Oasis are manipulated, like all pop groups, but they are original and have natural talent. The Spice Girls are merely a synthetic creation, dreamed up in a laboratory, with a limited life expectancy."

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Whatever you think about foxes, you have to admire their guts.

Most huntsmen will tell you that the death of a fox is swift and painless.

"A quick nip in the back of the neck," they say, "and he's dead."

If only.

Foxhounds tend to go for the softer option.

The belly.

This brings the fox down, but doesn't immediately kill it.

Death usually occurs by disembowelment.

There are those who would argue that this is no more than a fox deserves.

After all, they say, foxes are themselves killers and need to be controlled.

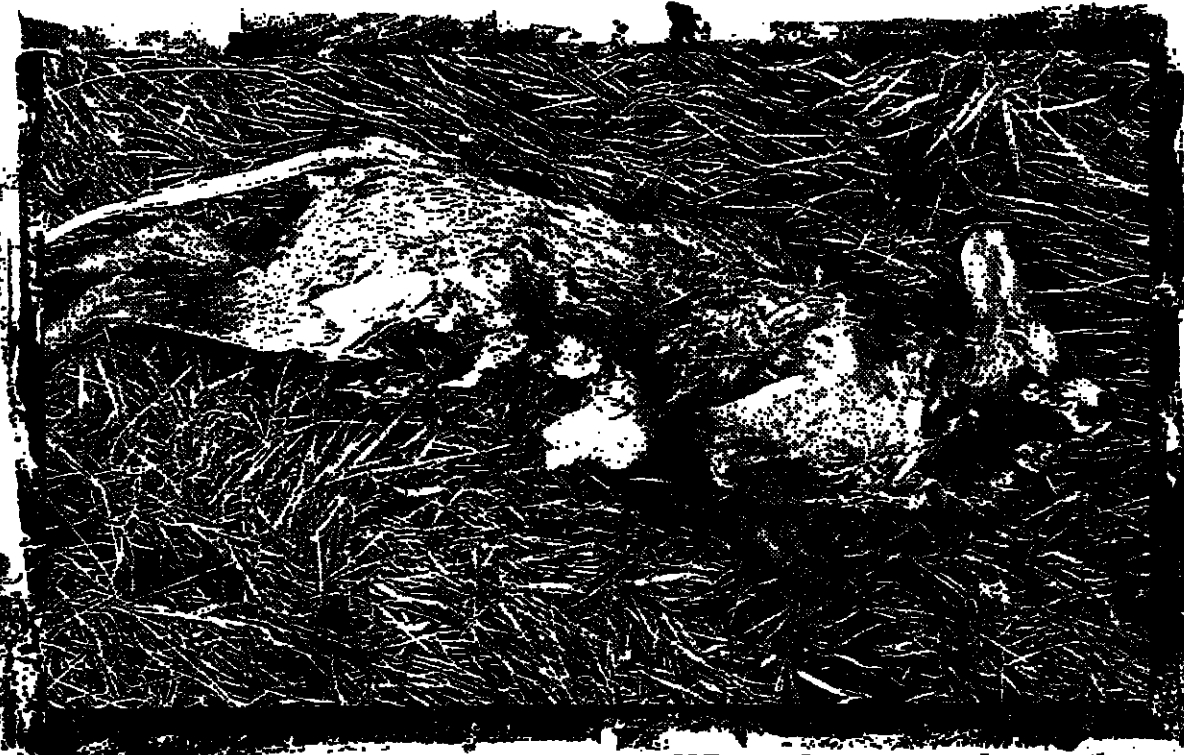
Whilst it's true that foxes do occasionally take lambs, many of these are likely to be already dead.

(20% of lambs born each year die from hypothermia, malnutrition or disease, or are

stillborn.) And the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food estimates the number of lambs taken by foxes to be not significant.

The notion that hunting is necessary to control the fox population is equally unfounded.

At least 200,000 foxes are killed every year by shooting, snaring or in road accidents. Only about 15,000 are killed by hunting.



Where foxes are deemed a pest, it is more efficient and more humane for them to be shot by a marksman.

The RSPCA has long campaigned against all hunting with dogs.

We believe that the hounding and killing of wild animals is cruel and unacceptable in a civilised society.

A Private Member's Bill seeking to ban hunting with dogs comes before Parliament

on November 28th.

A MORI poll taken in October this year shows that 73% of people support the Bill.

We want to turn that overwhelming weight of public opinion into legislation.

November 28th is a Friday when many MPs will be back in their constituencies.

We want you to persuade them to stay in the House that day and vote to end this cruel "sport" once and for all.

You can write to your MP direct at the House of Commons.

Or call the RSPCA on 01403 223 284 (9am-5pm weekdays) and we'll send you a campaign pack.

Foxhunting is cruel and unnecessary.

It's about time we made it illegal.



Ban hunting with dogs.

THE AIMS OF THE RSPCA ARE TO PREVENT CRUELTY AND PROMOTE KINDNESS TO ANIMALS.

Royal Train could be heading for the sidings

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE Royal Train could be scrapped as part of a radical reform of the monarchy, according to one of the Queen's former aides.

The train was already under threat from MPs after official figures showed it had cost taxpayers £12.3 million in five years, an average of £2,460 for each of its 183 journeys.

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales has accelerated the reform of the monarchy, with a slimmed-down, cheaper version of the Royal Family now likely, says Simon Gimson, who left his post as head of the Palace Policy Unit a fortnight ago.

Abdication is ruled out, and so is skipping a generation to let Prince William take the crown instead of the Prince of Wales. But the Royal Family will be slimmed down naturally, he says. "We have a lot of active members of the Royal Family at the moment," Mr Gimson, speaking with the consent of the Palace, tells tonight's *Panorama* on BBC1. "There are a good dozen and I think over time, if one looks

BUTLER HELPS TO CHOOSE MEMORIAL

The butler who served Diana, Princess of Wales for nine years and was honoured by the Queen for his services last week, is to help to decide on a fitting memorial to his former employer (Peter Foster writes). Paul Burrell, 39, became a confidant of the late Princess during his time at Kensington Palace. Downing Street has confirmed that Mr Burrell, awarded the Royal Victoria

an Medal on the nomination of the Princess, will sit on a government committee of ten members, to be chaired by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. Mr Brown is expected to announce the full list of members later this week. Names linked to the committee include Earl Spencer and Lady Sarah McCorquodale, Baroness Chalker and Lord Attenborough.

Leading article, page 23

in a bald, actuarial way at it, members of the Royal Family who are currently very active are going to get old... If you look at the next generation coming through, there are far fewer who will be there to do public engagements in ten or 15 years."

Mr Gimson says the Princess's death has speeded reform. "The organisation probably needs to move down that track a little bit more rapidly than it has been until now," he says. "The Palace is

looking very carefully at specific changes, at radical changes, at gentle changes."

Mr Gimson confirms that the Palace is considering scrapping the Royal Train. He tells the programme: "Yes, and there may be decisions on that."

The 150-year-old train, run by a private American firm, Wisconsin Railways, has bullet-proof windows and steel-plated sides. Its top speed is 100mph, slower than the InterCity trains which the

Queen is said to favour. It has 14 coaches, but rarely are they all used.

Mr Gimson, who had been Special Assistant to the Queen's Private Secretary Sir Robert Fellowes, admits the Palace was concerned about public reaction in the week after the Princess's death. "We weren't sure which way the mood was going to swing," he says. "I think there was some hostility there originally."

He denies that the Royal Family failed to capture the public mood. "What they perhaps don't do is foghorn, is trumpet their emotions, they simply keep it to themselves and then at an appropriate time express themselves."

The Palace acknowledged the public mood for change and reform, he says. "People have been demanding a slimmed-down monarchy for a long time. It's going to happen inevitably." Mr Gimson adds that the Prince of Wales has for some time been taking on greater responsibility and says of the idea of skipping a generation to favour Prince William: "It isn't going to happen."



The Prince of Wales and Lady Tryon at a charity polo match in July 1991

Lady Tryon died after skin graft operation

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

LADY TRYON, described by the Prince of Wales as "the only woman who really understands me", died after a skin graft, it was disclosed yesterday.

She developed blood poisoning after the minor operation last week to treat bed sores. Lady Tryon, 49, nicknamed Kanga by the Prince when he met her in Australia, was confined to a wheelchair last year after becoming paralysed from the waist down when she fell from the first-floor window of a private health clinic.

She died in the intensive care unit of the London Clinic. With her were her elder daughter, Zoe, who had flown from Australia, and her brother, Derek Harper. Lord Tryon — they married in 1973 — had filed for divorce in September on the ground that she caused him a stress-related illness.

Obituary, page 25

Anniversary is a testing time for the Queen

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THIS week's golden wedding anniversary of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh looks like turning into a major national event, despite the couple's own wish that it be an essentially family affair. Several planned public appearances will be an opportunity to test public reaction to the monarchy after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, when the Queen was criticised for her decision to remain at Balmoral while London saw an unprecedented outpouring of public grief.

Official celebrations begin tomorrow, when the Queen and the Duke travel to the City of London for a Guildhall lunch hosted by the Lord Mayor. In the evening, the couple and most of the remaining crowned heads of Europe will attend a gala concert at the Royal Festival Hall, masterminded by Prince Edward.

Ian Holm, Sir Donald Sinden and Dame Diana Rigg will perform extracts from Shakespeare's plays and sonnets to tell a story of courtship and marriage. Musical performances will range from John Dankworth and Dame Cleo Laine to the London Philharmonic Orchestra and operatic

soloists. The programme includes the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet*, *Tonight from West Side Story* and the love duet from Verdi's *Otello*.

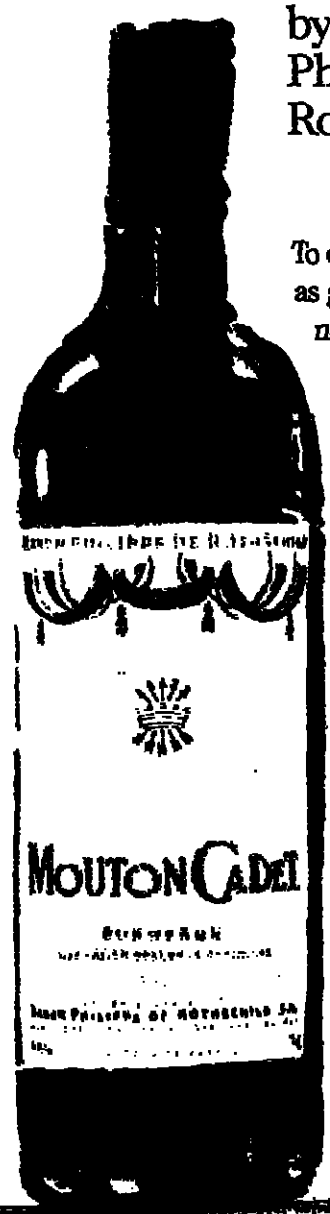
On Thursday, the actual anniversary, the Queen and Prince will attend a televised thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey, where they were married. Afterwards, they are expected to go on a walkabout in Parliament Square around midday, before being greeted at 10 Downing Street by the Prime Minister and his wife. The four will then walk across Whitehall to Inigo Jones's Banqueting House, the last remaining vestige of the old royal palace of Whitehall, for a lunch hosted by the Government, at which most members of the Cabinet are expected to attend.

In the evening, the royal couple will finally achieve some degree of privacy, when they attend a ball in the newly restored apartments of Windsor Castle for themselves, their family, their guests and friends. For the Queen, the completion of fire damage repair to her favourite official residence is the best anniversary gift she could have wished for.

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Gulf War pesticides linked to illness

NEW evidence has emerged that exposure to toxic pesticides in the Gulf War may be directly linked to the illnesses suffered by veterans of the conflict over the last six years. Fresh research into the health hazards arising from exposure to organophosphate pesticides has revealed that at least 10 per cent of people exposed over a period of time to the pesticides developed a disorder that led to brain damage.

The research, carried out by

Exposure to sprays could lead to brain damage, writes Michael Evans

Robert Davies, a consultant psychiatrist and a member of the Organophosphate Scientific Forum, will strengthen demands for compensation from the 1,300 Gulf War veterans who have been given official diagnoses of a range of illnesses, including chronic fatigue, skin disorders, muscular pains and shortness of breath.

Although government stud-

ies have so far failed to back the veterans' claims that they are suffering from a unique Gulf War syndrome, one of the official research programmes is currently examining the possible risks from organophosphate poisoning.

Organophosphate pesticide spraying of British tents in Saudi Arabia was carried out on a comprehensive scale, although it took two years for

the Conservative Government to announce this fact in the Commons, after Ministry of Defence officials incorrectly told ministers that the use of such toxic insecticides was only limited.

Dr Davies, consultant at a psychiatric hospital in Taunton, undertook three studies over 18 months, examining about 450 people who claimed to have suffered from organo-

phosphate pesticide exposure, including Gulf War soldiers, farmers and horticultural workers.

In a scientific paper he has sent to the Department of Health and the *Lancet*, Dr Davies has renamed the syndrome Chronic OP-Induced Neuropsychiatric Disorder. He said he and a colleague, Ghose Ahmed, also a consultant psychiatrist, found the

causal link between organophosphates (OP) and Gulf War syndrome. "Victims all describe the same symptoms, unlike any encountered in general psychiatry before," he said, adding: "It's not depression or anxiety, it's a pattern of brain, nerve and muscle damage which is expressed in mood instability. I cannot yet say if the damage is permanent but my impression is that it is."

Among the symptoms identified by Dr Davies were flu-like illness, personality change, characterised by depression and irritability, impulsive suicidal thinking and language disorder. He said: "The work establishes that these people's symptoms have definitely been caused by OP. There is no doubt, no stronger scientific proof could be needed."

Dr Davies criticised the official study into the health risks of OP, now being carried out by the Institute of Occupational Health in Edinburgh. He said: "It will largely ignore the psychological damage of exposure to the chemical. That study is now very limited. In my view it was deliberately rigged to avoid looking at psychiatric illnesses because of the compensation implications."

River guardians call for ban on sheep dips

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent



De Ramsey: concerns

A BAN on a new generation of sheep dips is being demanded by anglers, landowners and salmon experts amid claims that the chemicals are killing rivers. Tiny amounts of the chemicals — introduced as alternatives to dips which were linked with ill health in farmers — can eradicate the insects and invertebrate life in a water course, studies have found.

Critics fear the spread of the dips, called synthetic pyrethroids, threaten the rivers in Scotland, the North West, Wales and the South West. In Cumbria, the worst-hit county, invertebrate life has been killed in up to 100 miles of water, including the River Eden, after a series of pollution incidents in recent months.

James Carr, a vice-chairman of the

Salmon and Trout Association and chairman of the Environment Agency's regional advisory committee, said yesterday that the Eden was one of Britain's finest salmon and trout rivers. It is a proposed Special Area of Conservation under the European Species and Habitats Directive because of its fish life.

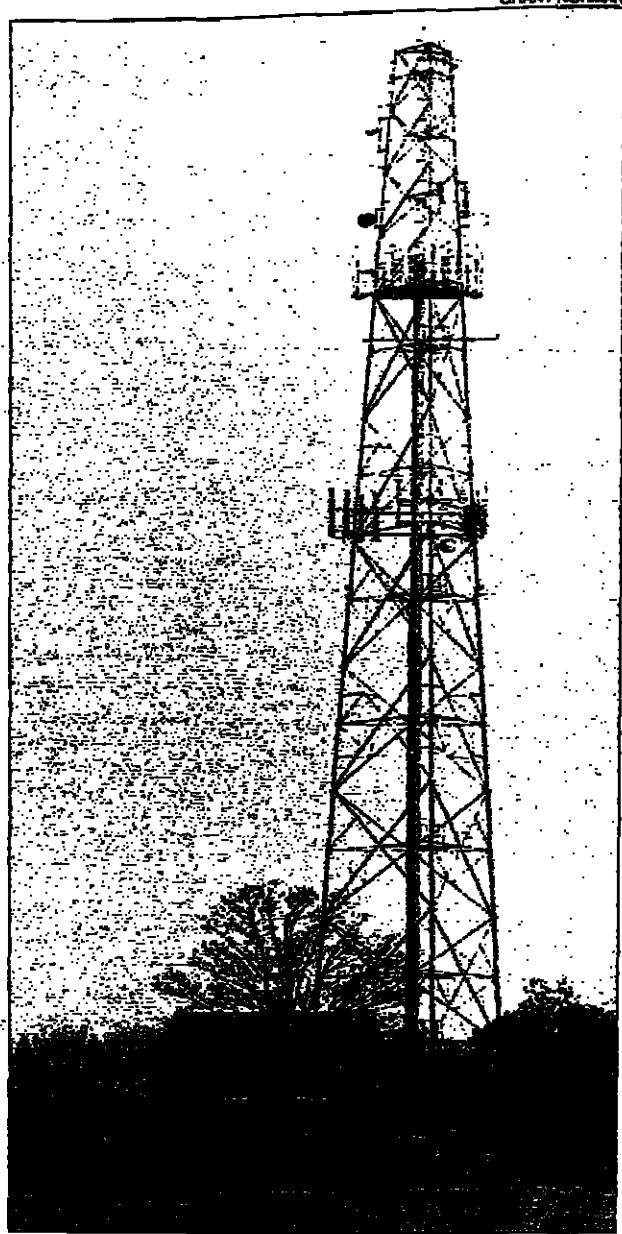
"The problem with these new products is that they are particularly lethal. A teaspoon can kill hundreds of metres of river by killing aquatic insect life which is the vital component in the food chain for fish and other wildlife," he said. Mr Carr said the impact of the new chemicals was only just emerging.

The products, introduced around 18 months ago, are designed to replace

organophosphate sheep dips which have been blamed for a range of ailments among farmers. The new chemicals are less toxic to man. But critics claim the Government's Veterinary Medicines Directorate, under pressure to find alternatives to organophosphates, have failed to assess the wider environmental impact.

The Environment Agency said yesterday that it was visiting farmers to advise them about the dangers of the new dips to the environment. It will next week be issuing a "strong statement about sheep dips. We are very concerned."

Lord De Ramsey, the agency's chairman, is also expected to raise the matter with Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Secretary, in two weeks.



GRANT NORMAN

The radio mast brings in £33,000 a year in rent

Hundreds signal interest in mast

A 160ft radio mast, on the market at £160,000, has attracted more than 300 inquiries from potential buyers, (Dominic Kennedy writes).

Some of those showing an interest are refugees from the stock market who believe the narrow pole at Hill Farm Radio Station, near Fulbourn in Cambridgeshire, has a more stable future than the FTSE index.

The Government requires communications companies to share space on the masts to

avoid the countryside turning into a giant pin cushion. The Hill Farm pole, annual rent £33,000, is already shared by half a dozen groups, including mobile telephone networks and paging organisations.

Leo Kieckhefer, a partner in Strutt & Parker, the estate agents handling the sale, was surprised that a country pole was now as desirable as a country pile. "This is a novelty," he said. "It is of a par to the sale of big estates, when everything goes ballistic."

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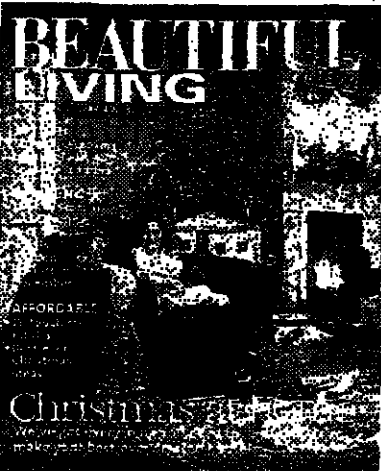
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OUT ON NOVEMBER 11TH

Adams to visit No 10 as rebels defy peace

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

GERRY ADAMS, Sinn Féin's president, will shortly become the first Irish republican leader in three quarters of a century to visit Downing Street.

Sinn Féin officials said yesterday that a meeting between Mr Adams and Tony Blair was likely before Christmas. Less than seven years ago the IRA fired three mortars at No 10 during a meeting of John Major's Gulf War cabinet.

Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, called such a meeting "distinctly premature" and a likely "propaganda coup for Sinn Féin-IRA". Unionists also expressed anger, but it could help Mr Adams at a time when disaffected republican hardliners are openly challenging his peace strategy. In a weekend telephone call to a New York radio station, one of the dissidents claimed that they would form a group this week to oppose the Sinn Féin and IRA leadership.

The sister of one of the most prominent of the ten republican hunger strikers who died in 1981 was expected to be named the group's spokeswoman. She lives with the former quartermaster-general who resigned from the IRA after unsuccessfully challenging

the leadership at a secret summit last month.

The caller claimed growing support for the rebellion. Sinn Féin and the IRA insist that a mere handful of dissidents are greatly exaggerating their own strength.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said she did not believe either the ceasefire or the peace process were under threat, but security officials fear that the dissidents' appeal could grow unless the leadership can show dividends from its participation in the Stormont talks.

The Downing Street meeting would be one such dividend. Mr Blair met Mr Adams behind closed doors at Stormont last month, and is now meeting leaders of all the eight participating parties at Downing Street, but to invite Mr Adams and Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin's chief negotiator, would still be a hugely symbolic gesture, conferring legitimacy on Sinn Féin.

The world's media would be able to film the two MPs entering No 10 and afterwards holding a press conference. The meeting would help to offset a likely delay until the new year of the Government's response to fresh evidence it received from the Irish Government earlier this year about the events of Bloody Sunday.

Last month, Labour sources said Dr Mowlam was "moving towards" a review and formal apology for the fatal shooting of 14 demonstrators by members of The Parachute Regiment in 1972. The Ministry of Defence is believed to be resisting any such move.

The Downing Street visit would also compensate for the almost certain rejection by Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, of the renewed appeal by Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness for the use of Commons offices and facilities. They have both refused to swear allegiance to the Queen and take their seats.



A battle over the land: residents of Strathconon, whose activities were filmed for a year for the new fly-on-the-wall series

By Shirley English

Highlanders are landed with a starring role in real-life TV drama

The people of a Highland glen have found themselves starring in a real-life television soap opera which reveals the tensions between them and an absentee Danish laird. A *Glen for All Seasons* charts a year in the lives of a remarkably varied cast of characters whose common link is that they all live in Strathconon, 30 miles northwest of Inverness.

The six-part fly-on-the-wall series was shot between August 1996 and July 1997, and aims to provide an insight into a close-knit Highland community at a time when the modern ideas of its new landowner were claimed to be challenging the way of life.

The series began last night on Grampian and Scottish TV, and talks are going ahead for a possible nationwide screening on Channel 4. The setting of the sparsely populated 17-mile glen includes the breathtaking scenery of Scotland's second largest deer

forest. The producer, Ted Brocklebank of Greyfriars Productions, has been a visitor to the glen for the past 25 years. "For that reason I had the trust of a lot of people, people who are not normally very forthcoming and would not normally want to have cameras intruding into their community," he said. "As the series develops the ups and downs of what is happening in the glen emerge."

Less than 150 years ago, Strathconon had a Gaelic-speaking population of around 600 people, lots of sheep and a single laird. There are now less than 100

people, and the land is owned by numerous people from abroad. Mogens Johansen, a member of the Lego family, bought the 62,000-acre Strathconon Estate two years ago, and has introduced radical changes in land management with the support of Scottish Natural Heritage, the Government's conservation agency.

Deer have been dramatically culled, conifers cut down to be replaced by broadleaf trees, and the 1,000 sheep removed completely. Vermin such as foxes are left alone because of a belief that nature will find its own balance. The aim is to return Strathconon

to the Caledonian landscape of centuries ago. The changes have not been popular.

The removal of sheep has resulted in deer roaming from the hills down to the village and invading gardens. The reluctance to kill vermin such as fox has led to lamb losses in neighbouring farms. The culling of deer, while hardly affecting the headcount on Strathconon, has resulted in losses for neighbouring estates dependent on the herds for sport.

Murdoch Laing, a wealthy Canadian who runs nearby Scardroy estate along traditional hunting and shooting lines, has deep reservations,

as does Dennis MacLeod, a gold tycoon who lives at Seatwell Lodge in the glen. Mr MacLeod said: "We are all in favour of conserving the land, but it seems that the Danes' ideas preclude all economic activity, which could be divisive down the line."

Despite the serious undercurrents, *A Glen for All Seasons* has many lighter moments, featuring the Highland Games and a wild Christmas party, as well as a "memorable" pheasant shoot, according to the producer.

During the year, there were no birds in the glen, and only one death, of Keeney Urquhart, who had lived in the glen all his life. The crew had filmed his reminiscences, but they could not find one useable take. Mr Brocklebank said: "We scoured half an hour of tape, but sadly couldn't find one coherent sentence, his accent was so strong."

TV listings, page 51

Blackmail bomber returns to terrorise shoppers

By Lin Jenkins

SHOPPERS at Sainsbury's stores were yesterday warned to be on their guard after small firebombs were placed at three London branches. The attacks are believed to be the work of the "Mardi Gra" blackmail bomber.

Staff were told to be on the alert and security checks of car parks and rubbish bins were increased in the wake of the attacks on Saturday. The company said all its staff would be asked to maintain an increased level of vigilance, but declined to give precise details of the security measures being implemented.

Police believe the man who planted the devices is the same person who began terrorising Barclays Bank in 1994 and turned his attention to Sainsbury's in 1996, demanding he be paid £500,000.

The store said yesterday that it had not received any communication about the three devices found in South Ruislip, West Ealing and Greenford. Two of the devices went off. One man was treated in hospital for minor cuts and shock and a staff member suffered shock.

A spokeswoman said yesterday: "We are continuing to work closely with the police, for the safety of our customers and our staff is foremost in our minds."

In December 1994, the first six of 25 devices were sent to branches of Barclays Bank and were followed up with a blackmail demand. The bomber wrote to the *Daily Mail*: "Mardi Gra is the codename of a small group of Barclays Bank victims who are in the process of reversing the tide of fortune into their favour." He failed to respond to messages placed in the newspaper's personal columns.

The last attack was in Ealing, West London, in April 1996, when three people waiting at cash machines outside the branch were slightly hurt.

Three months later it emerged that the bomber had turned his attention to Sainsbury's. He threatened to bomb supermarkets unless he was paid a reported £500,000.



Gerry Adams, under fire from hardliners

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Last days of Titanic in the lens of a Jesuit priest

AN IRISH Jesuit priest who photographed the last days of the passengers and crew of the *Titanic* has had his work compiled in a book for the first time.

Frank Browne boarded the liner for her maiden voyage at Southampton and sailed to Cherbourg and Queenstown — now Cobh — in Cork, where he disembarked. An avid photographer, he captured the liner's first days at sea in pictures. Most of his subjects drowned after the ship, en route to New York, hit an iceberg off Cape Race in the Atlantic on April 15, 1912. More than 1,500 people perished.

After the tragedy, the priest compiled an album of his photographs and memorabilia from the trip, bound it in leather and entrusted it to his friends in the Jesuit Order in Dublin. Estimated to be worth £2 million, the album has now been produced as a book, *Father Browne's Titanic Album*.

There are more than 30 black and white pictures taken on the ship, some grainy and scratched, that show its

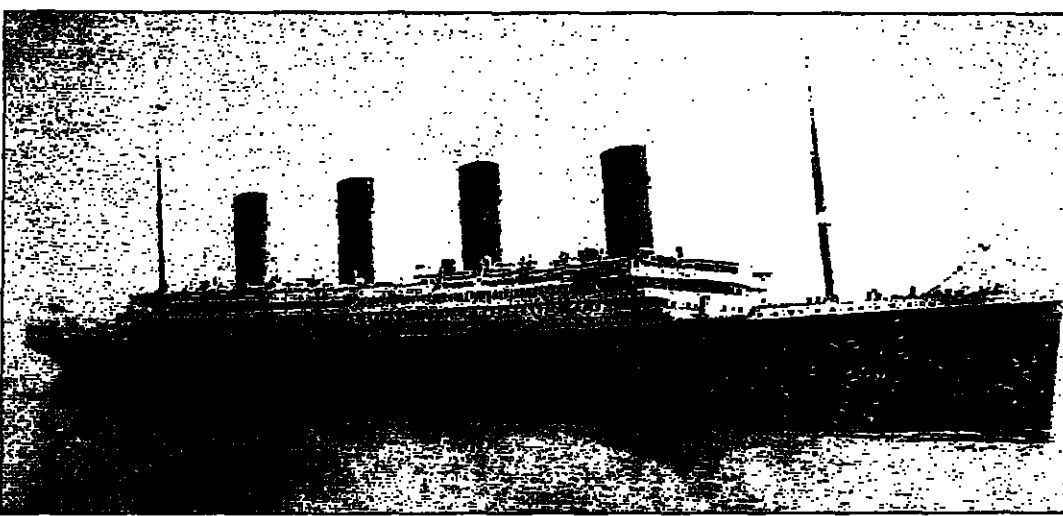


Father Browne, above left, captured everyday scenes of crew life on the *Titanic*, including lifeboat drill and the inspection of lifejackets

Audrey Magee on a book of photographs taken on the fatal voyage by Father Frank Browne



Jack Phillips, the wireless operator on the left, was acclaimed as a hero for sticking to his post when the ship sank after leaving Queenstown



working and leisure life. Others depict the journey on the boat train from London to Southampton and the disembarkation at Cork.

The priest handwrote the captions: "The *Titanic*'s first sunrise", "The children's playground, taken about mid-

day on the saloon deck", "The last glimpse of Capt Smith", and "Mr Farr, electrician, and Mr McGurk, gymnast, both lost".

Father Browne's photographs were widely used in newspapers of the time, and subsequently on anniversaries, and have been reprinted in several books about the liner. This is the first time, however, that they have been collected in a single published volume.

Robert Ballard, leader of the 1985 American expedition that found the *Titanic* 2½

miles below the surface, wrote the book's foreword. He describes Father Browne's pictures as "poignant reminders" of the vessel he saw under the Atlantic.

Father Browne, a contemporary of James Joyce who referred to him as "Mr

Irish Guards, serving on the front in France and Flanders during the First World War. He was highly commended for his bravery by the French and Belgian authorities and received the MC and Bar from Britain. The Irish Guards in Wellington Barracks, London, have a leather-bound album of his photographs from the war, entitled *Watch on the Rhine*.

His work disappeared into obscurity until 1985, when Eddie O'Donnell, a fellow Jesuit, found 42,000 negatives in a trunk in the archives of the Jesuits' Dublin headquarters. A world tour of the priest's photographs is being prepared by Father O'Donnell, editor of the *Titanic* album. It will start in London in 1999.

"Ten years ago I would have said that the most newsworthy fact about Father Browne was that he sailed on the *Titanic*", Father O'Donnell said. "That is no longer the case. The most interesting fact now is that he is being recognised as one of the world's greatest photographers of all time."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cartoon censured over its violence

The children's cartoon *Reboot* was condemned for violence by the Independent Television Commission after an episode featured a zombie and a villain wielding a chainsaw.

It was a breach of the official programme code to show the episode on ITV as early as 4.40pm, the commission said, upholding complaints from 19 viewers that the violence in the episode *To Mend and Defend* was unacceptable and that the characters, from feature films and computer games, were inappropriate.

Helicopter crash

A pilot and four male passengers were injured when a helicopter crashed into a field in Danbury, Essex. One passenger suffered serious head injuries, the others whiplash injuries. They had taken the trip to celebrate a birthday.

Major note

John Major, the former Prime Minister, helped to launch *The Greatest British Album Of The Century — Britannia*, as a tribute to the Royal Yacht. Each copy sold will bring a donation to King George's Fund For Sailors.

Late opening

Seventeen million people in Britain shop at night, according to a survey carried out by Shell UK, which has 850 24-hour Select shops linked to its garages. The survey also found that five million people like to shop after 10pm.

999 victim

A pensioner died after he was struck by a police car which was answering a 999 call. James Morris, 68, was crossing a road in North Wingfield, Derbyshire. Police said that the car's siren and emergency lights were in use.

Coastguard cuts

The Government is to announce the closure of up to six coastguard stations today. The move has been caused by funding difficulties in the Coastguard Agency, which merges with the Marine Safety Agency next April.

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Portillo ready for a comeback in the Commons

By Polly Newton, Political Reporter

MICHAEL PORTILLO, who lost his parliamentary seat in one of the biggest surprises of the general election, has confirmed that he wants to return to the House of Commons. The former Defence Secretary said that he would seek re-election "partly because I am better at politics than I am at anything else".

In a clear signal that he will try to re-enter the Commons before the next election, he said: "It's also because, if we are not going to be bossed around by our new Government, we have to make ourselves heard in Parliament."

Mr Portillo's defeat in his North London constituency of Enfield Southgate on May 1 ended any immediate prospect of him succeeding John Major as Conservative leader. However, his decision to make clear that he sees his future in politics will provoke fresh speculation about his ambitions.



“If we are not going to be bossed around by Labour, then we have to be heard”

Michael Portillo

After a high-profile speech at the Tory conference, he insisted that he was not making any kind of long-term bid to lead the party. However, he would almost certainly command significant support from the Right of the party in any future contest for the job.

Mr Portillo, 44, writing yesterday in the *Express* on Sunday, said that in many ways he had enjoyed life since May 1. The "sabbatical" had given him time to reflect on why the Conservatives lost so badly.

"What I can see clearly is

how totally our image went wrong," he said. "A lot of people came to hate the Tories; you cannot win if people think you are mean-spirited. We are not."

He said that politicians should be aware of how they were perceived. "People fol-

Portillo called for greater tolerance from the Conservatives. "I don't want to alienate anybody by being over-judgmental about their private life," he said.

"The job of politicians is not to pry behind your front door, but rather to prevent people from doing things that harm others."

He said that the Conservatives had seemed to alienate whole groups in society. "I hope teachers will come back to us because we value them, and put standards in education at the top of our agenda. I trust we will attract back the young because we aim to create for them the ladder of opportunity which enables them to achieve their hopes."

Mr Portillo predicted that William Hague's style would find favour with voters. "We need again to speak to people in a language they understand and boil things down to clear statements. William Hague will be good at that."

He said Mr Hague was being "straight" about the consequences of a European single currency — "something else I like about him".

Mr Portillo said that Labour claimed to reflect the consensus. "Well, fine. But the people I talk to want to hear their point of view represented in Parliament, otherwise it's not doing its job."

"That's why I stick my neck out in saying that I would like to be re-elected; to return to Parliament to help to express a broad body of opinion."



Harriet Harman and Frank Field are at odds over reforms, but Professor Mead says only toughness works

Expert says Harman's soft line for jobless mothers will never succeed

By Nicholas Wood

HARRIET HARMAN'S softly soft approach to getting single mothers back to work is condemned as unworkable today by one of America's leading welfare experts.

The Social Security Secretary has pinned her hopes on a £200 million programme in which an army of 1,000 personal advisers will attempt to persuade lone parents to switch from welfare to work. It is being piloted in eight parts of the country and is due to go national from October next year.

But in a new report, Lawrence Mead, Professor of Politics at New York University, says that the US experi-

ence demonstrates that tougher measures are needed. "The way forward is no longer liberation but obligation," Professor Mead concludes after reviewing the growing trend for American states to cut off benefits if claimants refuse to take a job.

In the report, Professor Mead says the main task of social policy should not be to reform society but to restore the authority of parents and teachers.

"The best single thing it can do is to restore order in the inner city. Above all, it can require that poor parents work, because employment failures are the greatest cause of family failures." Reviewing America's welfare to

work projects, Professor Mead says that the best results in terms of alleviating poverty have been achieved by those that penalise people who will not take a job.

"It has become clear that effective work programmes must be highly prescriptive and authoritative. One clear finding is that high participation in programmes is essential to show results."

Professor Mead says that voluntary schemes of the kind advocated by Ms Harman had been disappointing because only those likely to land a job anyway took part.

Last month, Ms Harman claimed her "New Deal" for lone parents was producing

"very encouraging" results with one in four of those committed to the scheme finding work. Closer analysis suggested the true success rate was one in 20.

Frank Field, the Minister for Welfare Reform, has been at odds with Ms Harman over his enthusiasm for radical change. Mr Field backs compulsion in some areas — such as the Government's plans for getting the under-25s off the dole — but endorses a voluntary approach for lone mothers.

"I am convinced that lone parents are a vast untapped resource, and that simply offering a helping hand should result in an immediate response."

Channel Tunnel safety still in doubt

By Robin Young

SAFETY procedures for trains and passengers using the Channel Tunnel are still causing concern, a year after a fire on board a freight train.

The Consumers' Association says it is worried about the use of open-sided freight carriages, evacuation procedures and the fact that passengers are kept with their cars on shuttle trains.

An official report into the fire by the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority made 36 safety recommendations after saying the fire had exposed "fundamental weaknesses" in safety systems. It said that inadequate training of Eurotunnel staff led to "errors and delays" in dealing with the blaze.

Eurotunnel, the tunnel operator, said yesterday that most of the recommendations had been implemented and those not yet adopted involved "long-term infrastructure investment". A Eurotunnel spokeswoman said: "We are happy with our evacuation tests and convinced that tourist shuttle passengers staying with their vehicles is the best procedure. We have ordered more open-sided freight shuttles, but they have been modified and prototypes are now being tested."

But the Consumers' Association says it remains unsatisfied that open-sided carriages used for freight trains are safe in the case of a fire. It doubts the realism of Eurotunnel's evacuation tests, and believes that keeping cars, fuel and people enclosed together in tourist shuttle wagons increases the risk of fire and the threat of casualties.

Government is urged to scrap the Corporation of London

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

THE Corporation of London should be abolished and its private income used to fund the proposed London authority and elected mayor, a pamphlet published today argues. Guildhall would become the base for the authority, with the mayor installed in Mansion House.

The proposal, published by the

Fabian Society, the pro-Labour think-tank, comes from Malcolm Matson, a City entrepreneur whose attempt to join the Court of Aldermen was blocked in 1994. Mr Matson challenged the body's arcane rules in the High Court, where he lost. But the Court of Appeal ruled that the aldermen had to tell Mr Matson why he was not a suitable candidate.

Mr Matson argues: "The Gov-

ernment's plans are doomed to fail unless it is prepared to pursue sweeping reform of a Corporation of London, the undemocratic, unaccountable and largely self-perpetuating body at London's historic and geographic heart. Constitutional reform of the City is a critical test of the new Government's radical credentials." He believes that the existence of two mayors in London — the City's Lord Mayor and the

elected office being proposed by the Government — would be absurd and confusing.

Among Mr Matson's proposals are the privatisation of the City's four markets to provide a windfall for the Treasury. He also calls for the merger of the City of London Police with the Metropolitan Police, but accepts the need for a specialist force to police the financial and information sectors of

global markets. The City's millions in revenue from capital assets would provide the new London authority with an independent financial base and bring greater accountability to the management and use of the cash, he argues.

He questions the corporate vote planned by the corporation to give companies a say in the running of the Square Mile.

Parliament and the nation have

been dazzled by the corporation's ceremonial and charitable record, he suggests. "Few have seen fit to look under the gold coach or the Lord Mayor's ermine to see that this local authority has failed to fulfil the statutory obligation placed on it by Edward III to chart a course 'with good faith and reason' which is 'profitable to the people'."

The Corporation of London last night dismissed Mr Matson's ideas

as "half-baked and unworkable" and claimed his pamphlet gave a "superficial, naive, half-picture of the real City of London". Franchise reforms would, a spokesman said, remove all anomalies and make the corporation representative of the business community.

□ *The Last Rotten Borough.* The Fabian Society (11 Dartmouth St, London SW1; £10)

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Beach battle puts a town at bay

Richard Duce
on a challenge to
businessman who
hopes an ancient
ownership right
will be his oyster

AS A fresh November wind gusts off the North Sea towards one of Britain's best-known coastal restaurants, its owner is at the centre of a rising legal storm over his claim to his own stretch of the coast.

Barry Green, 62, says he has historic legal rights to register the 1½ miles of shingle beach as his property, running to the left and right of the Egon Ronay-listed Royal Native Oyster Stores at Whitstable, Kent. He has run into vociferous opposition from councillors who have engaged lawyers to try to disprove the claim.

Mr Green already owns the only cinema in Whitstable and is opening a new hotel. He runs holiday lets in converted fishermen's huts, holds the majority stake in the Whitstable Oyster Fishery Company and still operates his original core business of selling ceramic tiles.

The battle for the beach has led to allegations that he will deprive locals of access to a natural amenity and will put up barbed wire to keep them away. An emergency debate has already been held by Canterbury City Council. Yesterday Mr Green was happy to give assurances that he had no plans to shut off the beach, saying that any development would be limited to the construction of ramps for the revival of oyster beds. His ownership claim stretches 200 metres out into the bay.

Geoffrey Pike, a local historian, says: "There is not the slightest doubt that Mr Green owns the beach, but questions do arise for townfolk on how it will affect their rights of access to the beach."

"Access has been a traditional part of Whitstable life and it also raises concern about whether this will give Mr Green the right to develop on the beach."

Mr Green insists that laying right to title of the Manor, and



Julia Seath, who wants a written assurance that residents will have access to the beach in perpetuity. She said: "It has stirred up bad feeling"

Foreshore of Whitstable with the Land Registry is merely a formality to clear up future ownership. It encompasses offshore oyster beds.

The Romans first brought oyster farming to Whitstable, and the rights to fish off the town rested with the Lord of the Manor until the late 18th century. According to Mr Pike, it was Lord Bolingbroke who fell on hard times in 1793 and sold the oyster grounds and beach to the highwater mark to the Free Fishers and Dredgers of Whitstable, who eventually formed the Whitstable Oyster Fishery Company.

In 1869 the company bought the beach fronting the town from Wynn Ellis, a subsequent Lord of the Manor. By the turn of the century, Whitstable was producing 20 million native oysters a year, but overfishing led to a huge decline. The company

buildings, now the restaurant, were derelict when Mr Green bought a 75 per cent stake 23 years ago. The restaurant business alone now has an annual turnover close to £1 million.

Mr Green and his son, Richard, 32, a director of the company, say their ambition is to reintroduce oysters to their beds. At present, they buy them from a neighbouring firm.

Although the beach is probably worth a small fortune and one of very few in private hands, we would never consider selling the beach," Mr Green said. "We are trying to keep things as they always were. There has been oyster farming here for thousands of years. The company is tied in with the beach. We are registering the land because of the beds. We need control over both."

"I don't feel we have any thing to fight. We have put our case to the Land Registry, and so far there are no other valid claims. "It is a joke to suggest that I am going to bring in razorwire to keep people out. I can give an assurance that enjoyment of the beach will never be restricted."

Concern about the future of the beach for the 30,000 population of Whitstable is led by a Labour councillor, Julia Seath, who tabled an emergency council motion and is seeking a written assurance that access rights will be granted in perpetuity.

She said: "I am concerned about the implications of this for the townspeople. I am looking for an assurance that, at some future point in time, access will not be denied or charging policies introduced."

"That would be a grave threat to the civil liberties of the people in the town. It has

stirred up a lot of bad feeling in the town. It is a small place where people often fall out with each other, but when threatened by one individual they will stand together."

Janet Franklin, senior solicitor with Canterbury City Council, said: "We are trying to protect the rights of the public. It is too early to say if Mr Green has a legitimate claim, but we have a duty to object where the public rights are of overriding interest."

Two years ago, Mr Green received £12,000 grant aid towards the £100,000 conversion costs of the fishermen's huts, but failed to let them to local artisans as originally intended.

He now lets them to holidaymakers at £75 a night. Change-of-use planning permission has still to be granted. They were featured earlier this week on the BBC Holiday programme.



Green: says he would never sell the beach

Railtrack will let hire bikes take the strain

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAIL managers are preparing to lure commuters away from their cars with rented bicycles. Railtrack directors are anxious to seize on the increasing enthusiasm for cycling by setting up bicycle hire shops at the main railway stations.

The company has submitted plans to John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, outlining proposals to provide bicycles at stations in London, Edinburgh, Manchester, Glasgow and Birmingham.

The move would enable commuters to hire a bicycle for the day and return it in the evening. The scheme would follow the example of countries such as The Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, where bicycle hire has become a routine part of city transport. In Germany, thousands of cyclists pick up a bicycle at one

cyclists. Peter Gazy, project manager of Bikerail, said: "We are a long way behind other countries. There are signs that we have got cycling into the institutional process. But it is a long way from where we were five years ago and we know that train operators are keen to have hire facilities, if only to avoid bicycles on trains."

Mr Gazy said that it was unlikely that a retail outlet could survive on bicycle hire alone, but might include sales of cycling accessories as well as offering servicing for commuters' bicycles. Some rail companies, led by Anglia Railways and Great Western, have set up bicycle racks on trains but most of the 25 train operators make no provision for cyclists.

A Railtrack spokeswoman said that the company would examine the options in detail in the new year before deciding which stations would lead the hire project. "We want to show that we will support the Government in its plans to have an integrated transport system and to reduce congestion in city centres."

Operators are keen to have hire facilities, if only to avoid bikes on trains

Cycling groups claim that it is difficult to take bicycles on trains because most operators have abandoned guards' vans. They have also complained to Railtrack about poor storage facilities at some mainline stations and the lack of adequate signs for racks.

Baroness Hayman, the Roads Minister, who has been pressing local authorities to encourage more use of bicycles, has met cycling organisations to discuss ways of capitalising on the increasing interest in cycling. Sales of new bicycles have outstripped those of new cars for the past nine years, but cycling campaigners say that many people are put off by the difficulties of bringing their bicycles into town.

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Museum reunites Handel with his librettist

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A MUSEUM being founded in memory of the composer George Frideric Handel has acquired an important portrait of the man who wrote the libretto to *Messiah*.

Thomas Hudson's imposing portrayal of Charles Jennens (1700-73) will be displayed, alongside an extraordinary collection of Handel manuscripts and memorabilia that was acquired for the nation in September, at the house in Brook Street, West London, where Handel lived for 36 years until his death in 1759.

It was bought this week at Sotheby's. Half the £13,800 price was raised from private

donations; the rest came from the National Art Collections Fund, which, with 80,000 members, is Britain's largest art charity.

Stanley Sadie, president of the Handel House Trust, described Jennens as the most important of Handel's artistic collaborators. "It was Jennens who conceived the idea of an oratorio on the theme of the

Messiah and planned the libretto, providing what a contemporary described as 'the most elevated, majestic, and moving Words'."

Apart from *Messiah* of 1741, Jennens also wrote, among others, librettos to Handel's oratorios *Saul* and *Belshazzar*. He became so renowned for his extravagant lifestyle that he was nicknamed

Solyman the Magnificent. Despite their friendship, however, Jennens displayed a certain arrogance. Dr Sadie noted how he felt "Handel's music failed to do justice to his words, saying 'I shall put no more Sacred Words into his hands, to be thus abused', although he admitted that 'Tis after all, in the main, a fine Composition'."

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Saddam given warning over Scud offensive

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein's ambition to have missiles tipped with nuclear, chemical or biological warheads poses "a great danger to the world", Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said yesterday.

Before leaving London for Washington, he refused to say what action he might take if Saddam fired Scud ballistic missiles at Israel. "I'd rather not speculate on possibilities," he said in an interview on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*. However, Israeli officials have made clear that if Saddam fired missiles with chemical or biological warheads at cities in Israel, there would be no hesitation in responding from

NETANYAHU

its stock of weapons of mass destruction.

During the Gulf War, Israel agreed to hold back from retaliatory strikes after Scuds were fired on Tel Aviv, because of the importance of maintaining the Arab coalition against Iraq. The Iraqi leader had hoped to provoke Israel into responding, and thus destroy the Arab alliance built up by the United States.

An Israeli official said yesterday: "Today that Arab alliance against Saddam doesn't exist, so the same argument no longer applies." Israel has an awesome inventory of weap-

ons it could unleash against Iraq. An Iraqi official admitted recently that during the Gulf War it was Israel's implied threat to use nuclear weapons — not America's warning of retribution — that stopped Saddam from launching Scuds armed with chemical and biological warheads against Tel Aviv.

His deadly warheads were ready but were never launched. The Scuds fired towards Tel Aviv in 1991 carried high-explosive warheads but many disintegrated as they approached their target because of faulty design work by Iraqi engineers who had converted the Russian-made Scuds into longer-range al-Hussein missiles.

Last week, Israeli officials were reported to have given a warning that Israel would respond to an Iraqi chemical or biological attack with a neutron bomb, the enhanced-radiation weapon that some countries developed in the 1970s. A tactical weapon which produces a huge wave of neutron and gamma radiation but a reduced blast effect, it can be carried in a Lance missile system or delivered by howitzer or aircraft. Although this was seen as part of the rhetoric to deter Saddam, it is presumed Israel has a number of neutron bombs.

It is also suspected of having developed up to 100 nuclear warheads, and has the delivery systems for launching a nuclear attack. The Jericho 1 single-warhead ballistic missile, with a range of more than 300 miles, and the Jericho 2, with a range of more than 900 miles, are both capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

The Israeli Air Force's F4 Phantoms are nuclear-capable, and its F15s and F16s are also likely to be capable of carrying nuclear bombs. Israel, helped by the US, have been developing the Arrow anti-ballistic missile system, but it is not yet operational. A number of its flight tests have failed, although the system is expected to be in service within the next few years.



An eight-year-old Israeli girl is fitted with a gas mask at a distribution centre in Jerusalem as the nation prepares for possible attack from Iraq.

Israelis prepare for attack

writes from Jerusalem). David Zucker, chairman of an Israeli parliamentary sub-committee on security affairs, said a lack of money meant that about 10 per cent of the population would be without adequate gas masks. Israeli military officials estimated that some 400,000 people had faulty gas masks that

needed to be replaced. Mr Zucker said that a further £14 million was required to meet the shortfall in funding. Otherwise, until the end of 1998, there would be a lack of kits — specially designed for infants and men with beards. He said the shortage was "due to a lack of political foresight and the non-

allocation of adequate sums of money".

During the Gulf War, more than 40 Iraqi Scud missiles were launched at Israel. Only one man died, of a heart attack, but there was extensive property damage as Israel bowed to American pressure not to retaliate. Israelis lived for weeks in sealed areas, wearing gas masks, only to discover that their equipment then was also defective.

THREAT TO AMERICA'S EYE IN THE SKY

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Iraq puts its faith in veteran missile

THE only weapon in Iraq's armoury capable of hitting an American U2 spy plane is the Russian-made Sa2 Guideline surface-to-air missile, according to US Defence Department officials (Michael Evans writes). First put into production in about 1956 and operational with Soviet armed forces in 1958, it has been one of the most widely used missile systems in the world. The Russians have sold it to more than 20 countries.

It was fired by the Soviet Union when it brought down the U2 flown by the US Air Force pilot Gary Powers in 1960. Two Sa2s were fired at

the aircraft as it flew over Soviet territory. One hit the aircraft and the other exploded behind it.

The Sa2 was then new and it has since been modified and improved. However, it is obsolescent and modern aircraft with electronic counter-measure systems should have little difficulty avoiding it. The Sa2 has been described as "a flying telegraph pole".

The U2s on patrol over Iraq are protected at a lower altitude by support aircraft including electronic counter-measure planes which would be able to jam the Sa2's radio guidance system.

Kuwait joins chorus against military strikes

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

COALITION

AMERICAN attempts to rally support for possible military strikes against Iraq suffered a significant setback yesterday when Kuwait declared it would oppose the use of force.

The tiny oil-rich emirate has been the staunchest supporter of American policy on Iraq since the Gulf War and still relies on US muscle for its survival. Its call for moderation came as Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, began consultations with Washington's allies in the Gulf and Iraq announced its own diplomatic offensive to win Arab support.

"Any military attack would

harm the Iraqi people and neighbours," Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, said after meeting President Mubarak of Egypt in Cairo. The Kuwaiti Cabinet also issued a statement urging a diplomatic solution, echoing calls from Egypt, Syria, Bahrain and other key Arab components of the Gulf War alliance.

However, there was also strong criticism of Iraq for triggering the crisis over weapons inspections. "We discussed Iraqi and American threats, and not threats from one side," said Sheikh al-Sabah, who ruled out reconcil-

ation with Baghdad while President Saddam Hussein was in power.

A Gulf diplomat said: "The Kuwaitis are still terrified of Saddam and don't want to back military action if it doesn't get rid of him. After all, they have to live next to Iraq. If the Americans can convince Kuwait they have a real strategy to topple Saddam, I think they'd give Washington the support it wants."

Iraq accused the United States of pretending to give diplomacy a chance while it used the time to complete military preparations, but Baghdad's own diplomatic efforts to defuse the crisis were accompanied by fiery rhetoric.

It repeated threats to shoot down American U2 spy planes, and for the first time raised the spectre of a terrorist backlash against British and US interests in the Middle East.

An editorial in Saturday's *Babel*, an influential newspaper owned by Saddam's eldest son, Uday, said: "American and British interests, embassies and naval ships in the Arab region should be the targets of military operations and commando attacks by Arab political forces."

Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, is today due to begin touring North African countries in an attempt to win Arab support for Baghdad's defiant stand. Diplomats rep-

resenting moderate Arab countries complained that recent comments by President Clinton had supported Baghdad's claim that Washington was using the issue of weapons inspections to topple Saddam and replace him with a "US-sponsored regime". Mr Clinton said on Friday that by expelling American weapons inspectors last week, Saddam had ensured sanctions would remain in place as long as he was in power.

However, there was growing speculation in the Middle East that Washington may offer to improve the terms of a year-old deal whereby Baghdad is allowed to sell limited amounts of oil to buy food and other humanitarian supplies.

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Stand-off provoked 'to protect germ-war stockpile'

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON
AND JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THE showdown with President Saddam Hussein was provoked when it dawned on the Iraqi leader that he could no longer hoodwink United Nations weapons inspectors over his secret stockpiles of germ warfare agents.

American and UN officials said yesterday that the inspectors had been closing in on sites where they expected to uncover the heart of Saddam's biological weapons programme, including evidence of refrigerated lorries used to move supplies of the lethal anthrax bacteria, and details of tests on live animals.

Some inspectors suspect that Iraq may even have conducted tests on prisoners captured during the Iran-Iraq war and on Kurdish dissidents. Rumours about human guinea-pigs have never been confirmed, but two years ago inspectors did obtain videotapes of the death throes of dogs, monkeys and other animals infected with anthrax spores and botulinum toxins.

As the inspectors tightened their noose, they were also threatening to expose the role of Saddam's Special Republican Guards in controlling the sites, logistics and testing of biological warfare research under the supervision of his son, Qusay.

The current crisis began two days after a stern letter to the Iraqi Government on October 27 by Richard Butler, head of the UN inspection teams. It came after three rebuffs during September and October of inspectors trying to gain access to premises controlled by the Republican Guards

WEAPONS

and to a building known as the chemical defence headquarters. Mr Butler's letter proposed a Baghdad meeting on November 9 and 10 at which he would be accompanied by, among others, his chief biological weapons investigator, Dick Spertzel, a retired US military officer and acknowledged expert on germ warfare.

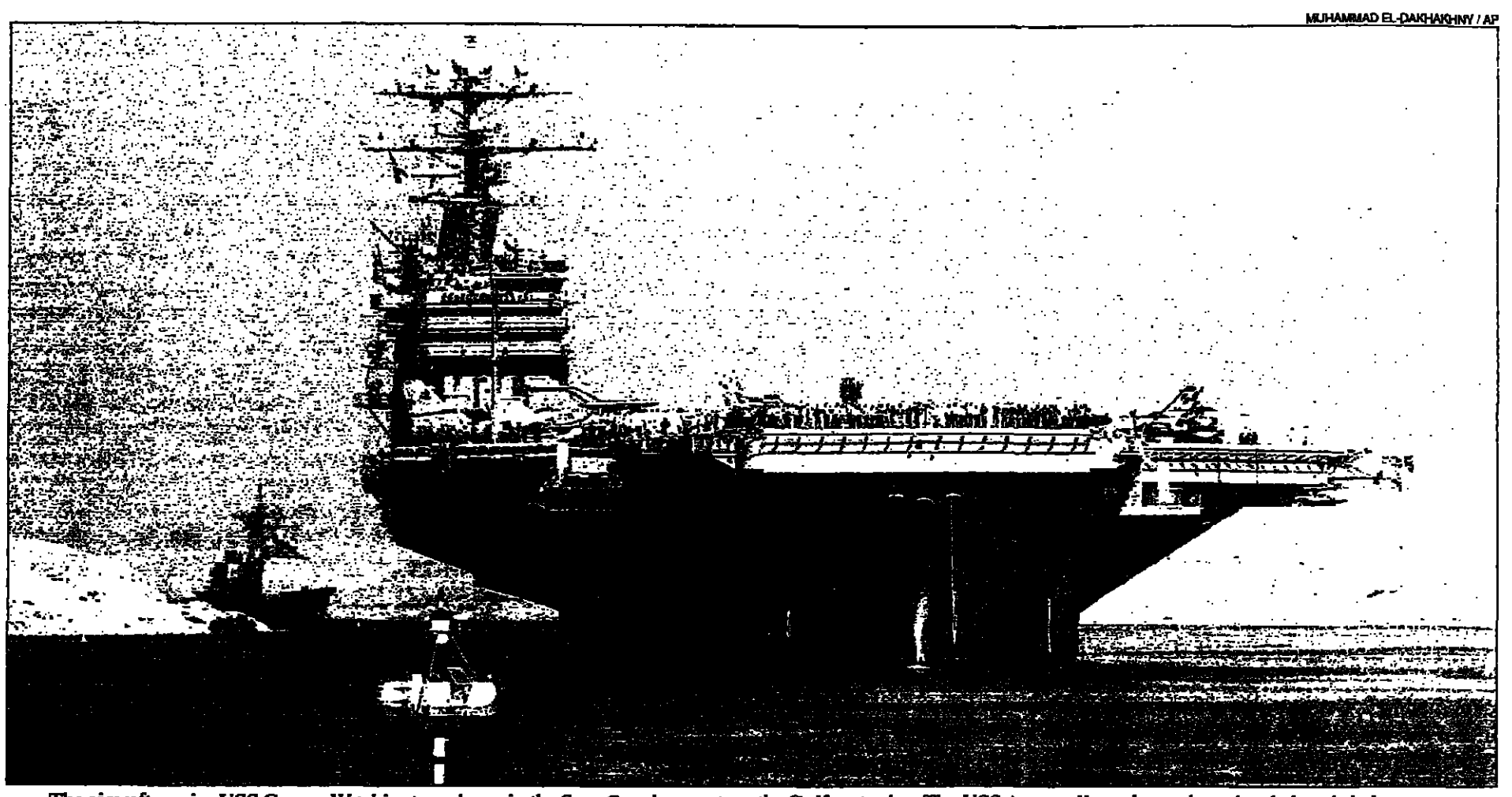
The meeting, Mr Butler wrote, should focus on how Iraq intended to proceed on providing information about biological weapons. He also wanted an understanding that inspectors could visit sensitive sites, and assurances on how they would be treated there.

These demands apparently confirmed for Saddam's inner circle that their claim to have made a "full, final and complete declaration" about biological weapons had been rejected as preposterous.

In addition to making them come clean about their prized biological arsenal, Mr Butler wanted more information on Iraq's missile warheads and its stocks of two chemical warfare agents - VX nerve gas and mustard gas.

Iraq is keeping its germ-warfare data secret after losing the bulk of its chemical weapons and nuclear programmes to the inspectors.

□ Moscow intervenes: Russia is trying to rein in the Special Commission responsible for disarming Iraq by transforming its advisory board of technical experts into a political oversight body. At Russia's request, the UN Security Council has recommended that Unscorn convene a meeting of its 21 commissioners to discuss the Iraqi confrontation.



The aircraft carrier USS George Washington, above, in the Suez Canal en route to the Gulf yesterday. The USS Annapolis nuclear submarine, below, is in her escort



Air power stepped up at Incirlik

Incirlik Air Base: Washington is boosting its fighting presence here in southern Turkey, one of Nato's most sophisticated air bases, which was extensively used for bombing sorties during the Gulf War (Andrew Finkel writes).

But Turkey denied that it had given permission for the base to be used for fresh offensive action. Ismet Sevgin, the Turkish Defence Minister, said yesterday that permission would need the consent of the Turkish parliament. He also

TURKEY

denied that F117 Stealth bombers had been sent to Incirlik.

The base is currently used to patrol the northern Iraq no-fly zone, and any increase in the intensity of operations must raise the possibility of a direct confrontation with Iraqi fighters violating the zone, which they increasingly do.

Iraqis in the zone normally turn tail as soon as they are "lit" by radar beams. "If they are looking for a confrontation" now, that's what they'll get," a US Embassy spokesman said.

Clinton cites Tokyo attack as warning

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

GAS FEARS

THE crisis with Iraq is not a replay of the Gulf War but a battle against organised forces of destruction, President Clinton said yesterday.

Citing the March 1995 sarin nerve-gas attack on the Tokyo underground as an omen, he said: "Think about it in terms of the innocent Japanese who died in the subway and how important it is for every responsible government in the world to do everything possible not to let big stores of chemical or biological weapons fall into the wrong hands."

Eleven commuters died when the Aum Shinrikyo sect released the gas. By drawing the comparison, Mr Clinton was raising the alarm that rogue regimes could place lethal weapons in the hands of terrorists and spies. William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, held up a 5lb bag of sugar on US television. Just such a bag filled with anthrax bacteria could kill half Washington's population of 600,000 if it were spread over the city, he said.

Mr Clinton won support for his search for a diplomatic solution in telephone calls to Tony Blair, Presi-

dent Yeltsin and President Chirac of France. Britain has joined America in gearing up for possible military action, and Mr Clinton and the Prime Minister discussed diplomatic measures and the need to maintain unity in the UN Security Council.

Russia has agreed to use its special relationship with Iraq to try to find a peaceful solution. The Americans have made a similar appeal to the French, but whether Paris agreed is "less clear" said an official with Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, who is in the Middle East. Yesterday she added extra stops to her schedule - Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. She was seeking to stiffen resolve and remind them of America's need to use bases in their countries should there be armed conflict.

The Saudis are likely to collaborate if they are convinced that Saddam is determined to rebuild and expand his capacity to manufacture weapons of terror. Bahrain has a large US naval air station and is not expected to raise objections should diplomatic efforts fail.

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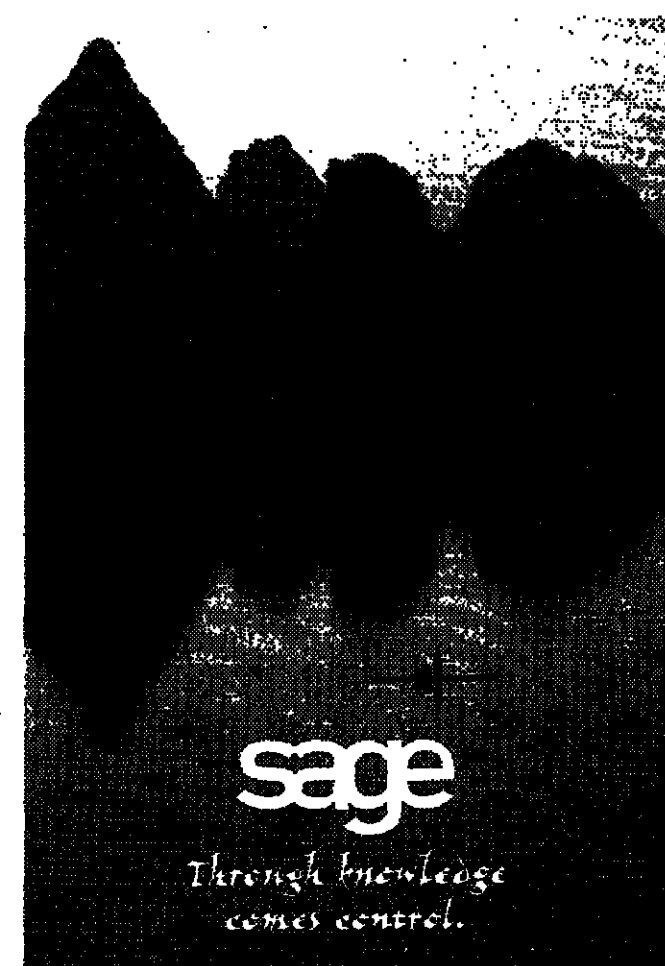
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China lets dissident go to US

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN BEIJING

CHINA'S leading pro-democracy activist, Wei Jingsheng, a 47-year-old electrician twice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, was released from jail at the weekend and flown yesterday to the United States in what diplomats saw as a surprise concession to American pressure on Beijing's human rights record.

That pressure came most notably during the recent visit of President Jiang Zemin to the US, where he held talks with President Clinton. The two leaders disagreed publicly on human rights, most significantly on the violent suppression and massacre of pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square in June 1989. Xinhua,

China's official news agency, said that Mr Wei had been released on "medical parole".

Mr Wei had always said that he would not seek exile but he was serving a 14-year sentence during which he had allegedly suffered harassment, including beatings from criminal cellmates. Human rights sources claimed that the ill-treatment had been on the orders of senior prison officials. Family members said that his decision to go indicated the parlous state of his health. On his arrival in Detroit yesterday he was taken directly to hospital.

After a meeting yesterday with some of his family, including a brother, at Beijing's international airport, where there was high security, Mr Wei boarded a Northwest

Airlines flight for Detroit. He was accompanied by a US diplomat and a Chinese judicial official. His sister, who lives in Boston, said she would join him to help to "look after him".

His brother, Wei Xiaotao, told reporters later: "My brother is still in high spirits. He hopes to come back one day to China. He is not the kind of person to change his ideals."

Diplomats said the release of Mr Wei Jingsheng, who has been suffering from heart trouble and high blood pressure, and has lost most of his teeth, was "a positive but not conclusive sign of willingness of Beijing to change".

Foreign diplomats said that Mr Wei might become irrelevant in exile. Some even say that this may be what the US Government, and certainly

Beijing, want. Others hope that China will soon release other jailed pro-democracy activists such as Wang Dan, one of the chief student leaders during the 1989 Tiananmen demonstrations. His parents say that he also needs medical treatment.

Mr Wei first aroused the ire of the authorities in the late 1970s when he called on Deng Xiaoping, the late reforming leader, to bring in the "fifth modernisation" — democracy — to complement free-market reforms in the economy.

He was one of the most prominent activists during the pro-democracy wall campaign of the 1970s, publicly writing posters critical of the Chinese leadership. He had served one 14-year jail term and was into his second, imposed essentially for a

meeting with a senior human rights official of the US Administration in 1994, although Beijing said the penalty was for trying to overthrow the Government.

American officials, who clearly hope Mr Wei's release will help to relax Sino-American tensions, said that in exile Mr Wei could be much less of a force for change in China than he was in a labour camp. One foreign envoy suggested: "Pretty soon, he may cease to be the flavour of the month."

China has observed that other freed dissidents, once overseas, become less and less relevant. Because they get no publicity in the Chinese press — they are treated as non-persons — few Chinese know much about them or what they stand for.

Former pop star beats the drum for Islam

FROM TOM WALKER
IN SARAJEVO

THE man looking every inch a Muslim cleric returned to centre stage, pulled by the frantic crowd's exhortations. "Who is the greatest?" he asked them. "Allah is the greatest," the thousands cried.

After an absence of 18 years, Yusuf Islam, formerly the pop star known as Cat Stevens, was back in the public gaze. On Saturday night, in Sarajevo's Skenderija centre, the one-time hippy whose plaintive melodies were a leitmotif of the early 1970s, showed Bosnia his new self.

With nothing more than five dervishes banging drums for accompaniment, he performed three songs — two in English, one in Arabic — before a dramatic, some would say rabble-rousing, encore.

Born Steven Georgiou, the son of a Greek Cypriot restaurant owner and a Swedish mother, the singer, now 48, said he wants to "see how music can play a part in shaping Islam in Europe". He has spent much of the past two decades campaigning for Islamic causes such as Kashmir, and running a school in Brondesbury, in the North London borough of Brent, but



Islam, formerly Cat Stevens, in Sarajevo, sings songs he wrote after being inspired by Bosnian Muslim folk music

hearing Bosnian folk melodies inspired a return to his musical roots.

Relaxing in the nearby Hotel Bosnia before the concert, Islam was happy to talk to television crews and journalists about his faith and the new unadorned music with which he praises God, but the past was largely off-limits. A minder in the lift on the way up to his room suggested, for example, that Yusuf's apparent support for the fatwa

against Salman Rushdie should not be mentioned.

Earlier in the day Islam had a meeting with President Alija Izetbegovic — "an amazing man, he came out of jail to become President, what a story." Did he regret a past from which he cannot hide? "As Muslims we accept what God has written," said Islam. "Some of the songs have more meaning now than when I wrote them."

Under pressure, he admit-

ted still singing hits such as *Morning Has Broken* to his youngest daughter, but that it would be "too much" to ever sing them in public again. Saturday's songs, entitled *Little Sister and Mother, Father, Sister, Brother*, bore the simplicity of the Cat Stevens of old, but were strictly Islamic in content.

Islam's concert attracted little publicity yet still managed to pack Skenderija to the rafters with a cross-section of

Bosnian society. From ministers to soldiers to Srebrenica refugees, the faithful turned up to a deeply Islamic event that many said confirmed a new cultural identity. Few commented on the irony that Yusuf was born into the same faith as the Bosnian Serbs just 20 minutes up the road.

As old men in Muslim berets, veiled women and soldiers in fatigues drifted away, Islam prepared for the next concert, in Turkey.

Swiss put English top of the class

FROM PETER CAPELLA
IN GENEVA

A MAJORITY of Swiss people want their children to learn English as a second language instead of another of Switzerland's four other national tongues, according to an opinion poll.

Sixty per cent of German-speaking Swiss would like English to be taught at school before French, while 57 per cent of French-speakers had a similar preference for English as a second language over German, the survey in the weekly *Facts* indicated.

Language teaching is regarded as a key binding agent that overcomes the social tensions inherent in Switzerland's linguistic diversity. Sixty-four per cent of the country's seven million inhabitants live in German-speaking areas, 19 per cent in the French-speaking west and 7.6 per cent in Italian areas in the south. Romansh is spoken by only about 40,000 people. The three main languages are granted equal official status in the Constitution.

The survey was published as education chiefs sought to defend the teaching of French, German or Italian as a second language throughout Switzerland. Regional authorities in Zurich are examining a project that would break away from national practice by introducing English early in primary school by 2000.

Cash crisis threatens UN

New York: The future of the United Nations has been put in jeopardy by the collapse in the US Congress of a compromise on funding the organisation (James Bone writes).

As diplomats were gearing up last week to meet the threat from President Saddam Hussein over arms inspections, Congress dropped legislation

on UN funding because of an unrelated dispute between the Republican majority and the Clinton Administration over abortion. The UN faces financial ruin next year because of the shortfall: Washington, which pays 25 per cent of the body's budget, owes \$1.3 billion (\$812 million), or 60 per cent of its unpaid dues.

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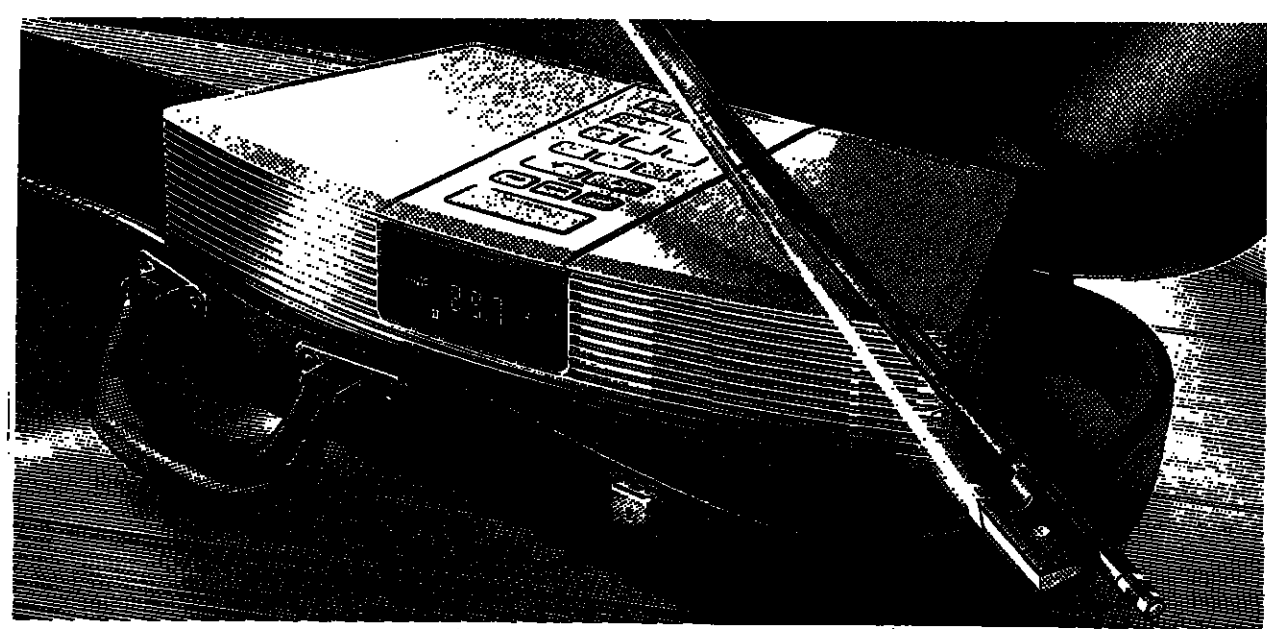
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Herr Kohl, the German Chancellor, has joined the British Government ahead of the Euro summit in calling for more deregulation of the labour market. But the German leader and his European colleagues should be concentrating on a top-to-bottom social deregulation which makes practical the most neglected of integrated Europe's credos, the freedom of movement. If he wants EMU to work, he will have to get on his bike; it is time that Europe started moving.

Much of the real wealth will only begin to materialise in the middle of the next decade after the Western investors have been paid off. Oil veterans advise against expecting a country with one million refugees, from the war with Armenia, a bloated and corrupt bureaucracy and collapsing Soviet infrastructure to become rich overnight.

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Stalinist Marchais dies at 77 in Paris

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

GEORGES MARCHAIS, the veteran Stalinist who ran the French Communist Party for two decades, died yesterday in a Paris hospital at the age of 77.

Marchais, born the year the Communist Party was founded, stuck to his headline views against the tide of history, and never deviated from the belief that Communist rule had been "globally positive".

Beetle-browed, aggressive and a master in the art of political survival, Marchais was elected secretary-general of the party in 1972 and finally stepped down in 1994, handing over leadership to the more liberal Robert Hue.

Colleagues yesterday paid tribute to one of the key figures of postwar French politics, but Marchais will be remembered principally as an old-fashioned and rigid Soviet-style leader, who presided over the steady decline of his party.

He played down human rights abuses in the Soviet Union, and even his most chronic misjudgments — such as supporting the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia — were dismissed as "errors of analysis".

Obituary, page 25

Death of abused 'Cinderella', 9, stains New York

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AN ANGUISHED New York is searching its civic soul after a nine-year-old girl was found dead at her Bronx home, having succumbed to advanced gangrene, malnutrition, numerous cigarette burns and a badly fractured skull. She had missed school for more than two months. Such absences should trigger a child abuse alert — but she slipped through the net.

Sabrina Green lived with her sister, 32, and the latter's boyfriend. Both have been arrested and charged with manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide and endangering the welfare of a child.

At a memorial service yesterday, Ronald Kelly, her father — a methadone addict who had not seen Sabrina since she was five — lashed out at the city's educational and childcare authorities, saying: "All I can see are her little hands reaching out and no one to help her."

Sabrina was found dead last week after an anonymous caller alerted the ambulance service to "an unconscious child" at the Edenwald public housing estate. The rescue services found her body bound to a bed and covered in festering sores. Untreated burns covered her face and hands. Gangrene, caused by

the loss of her right thumb, had blackened her right arm. She was emaciated, and her skull had a fracture caused by a blunt instrument.

The discovery led to an outcry in the press, which focused on Sabrina having missed school since early September. It is common practice to treat such chronic absence as an indicator of possible child abuse, yet there was no response from her school.

Under New York city law, if a pupil is absent for ten consecutive days school authorities must notify the Administration for Children's Services. That welfare body is then obliged to make a mandatory home visit. No one did in this case.

Authorities at Sabrina's school now claim that a telephone call was made, and that Yvette Green, her sister, said that the child was in hospital. Yet there is no note of a call, nor even of a follow-up. New York newspapers said that Sabrina was often marked present in class when she was absent.

Rudy Crew, New York's Schools Chancellor, has conceded that the "system failed Sabrina Green". He said: "I am going to be very forthright. I don't think the system handled this very well. I am not

into forgiveness. I want to know who did what, when and where." Investigations are now focused on Ms Green, a mother of ten children aged from three to 17, and her unemployed boyfriend. Reports have emerged of how Ms Green treated Sabrina as a "Cinderella", starving her, punishing her, locking her up and beating her.

Sabrina was born with traces of crack in her system to an drug-addict mother, who died in 1991. She was placed in the care of a friend of her mother, who treated her well and enrolled her at a private school before dying in 1996. Then a family court entrusted the vivacious and intelligent pupil to Ms Green, who moved her to a dilapidated school. After that, Sabrina's condition apparently worsened rapidly.

Police "suicide": A Long Island teenager with gambling debts committed "suicide by cop" yesterday — confronting two policemen with a toy gun, causing them to open fire. A note in a car belonging to Moshe Pergament, 19, the son of a wealthy property developer, said: "I'm sorry to get you involved. I just wanted to die." He owed \$6,000 (£3,500), mostly to bookmakers.



Kelly Flinn in her air force days before she was forced to resign over a love affair

Britain begins battle for euro influence

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

THE Government's drive to exert British leadership in the European Union will be tested today when Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, bids in the face of French and German opposition for a seat at the planned high table of countries taking part in monetary union.

As a non-participant when the single currency is launched, Britain will have no voice in the planned euro council, a body intended to co-ordinate policies among the countries inside the proposed currency zone.

The future finance ministers' forum is supposed to be informal, but Britain and the other likely non-members, Greece, Sweden and Denmark, are worried that EU power inevitably will gravitate to it, leaving the law-making Ecofin council of all 15 members an empty shell.

At the first debate on the new body in Brussels today, Mr Brown is expected to make the case for Britain to have an observer's seat. But Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, has ruled out the idea and German officials say they can see no reason for including non-members, a view shared by The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. "If you want to be at the table, then join the euro club," a senior Dutch official said.

Britain is also working to clip the wings of the future council, which the French are projecting as a body with global clout, along the lines of the G7 group of leading industrialised nations. In this, Britain can exploit misgivings in Germany, the Commission and the future European Central Bank, which are all worried that the council could inject politics into the management of the euro.

The central bank, which will be formed in the middle of next year after the choice of participants in the new currency, is the subject of intense Franco-German skirmishing. President Chirac is pressing a French candidate for its presidency against the German-backed favourite. Germany has also hinted at favouring a reserved seat for Britain on the bank's six-member directorate, but France and most other states flatly oppose the idea, saying that Britain must wait until it decides to embrace the euro.

Limiting the loss of influence from Britain's decision to stay out of Europe's paramount project is a priority for the Government as it prepares to take over the six-month EU presidency in January.

Pilot in sex scandal considered suicide

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

KELLY FLINN, the former Air Force pilot who was the first woman to fly a B52, considered suicide before she was forced to resign over her affair with a married civilian.

Ms Flinn was an enraged and stricken woman underneath the composed exterior she displayed in public during her ordeal last May, according to excerpts from her book, *Proud to Be*, appearing in this week's *Newsweek*.

Ms Flinn describes herself breaking down and going on a destructive rampage under pressure from her own lawyers and family to leave the service with a less than honourable discharge. Failing that, they warned her, she faced a court martial and quite possibly a prison sentence for adultery, lying and disobeying orders.

"I climbed into my Jeep and drove back to my house in a rage," Ms Flinn writes. "I kicked open the door and

marched into the living room. There were framed pictures of my pilot training, my framed diploma from the Air Force Academy, some awards I'd received. I pulled each one of them off the walls."

When family members came to talk to her, she sank into a chair and curled up in a foetal position, clutching a stuffed elephant. "There was broken glass everywhere. My face was swollen with crying. I had blood on my hands... Finally, when I realised no one would ever understand my feelings, my pain, my frustrations, I screamed at the top of my lungs. 'I resign! Just get out of my house!'"

She never attempted suicide, "but I thought about it hard. I imagined what my suicide note would say and to whom I'd send it. I knew where a gun was hidden in a friend's house. I imagined... getting it." In the long term, she says, her resignation was the right decision.

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Can bodies be built?

BUILDING new bodies, bit by bit, is a tempting target for developmental biologists. Human cells grown in culture might have many uses, from treating degenerative brain diseases to replacing bone marrow — even, ultimately, to growing entire organs such as livers for transplanting into patients. The idea is closer than most people realise.

Professor John Gearhart of Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University told a conference earlier this year that he and Dr Michael Shamblo had discovered how to culture human embryonic stem (ES) cells. These are found in the early embryo and have the capacity to become anything from bone to muscle to nerve. It had been done before for mice,

op into a range of tissues: other scientists working with monkeys have produced muscle, cartilage, bone, teeth and hair, the American magazine *The Scientist* reports.

The first application of techniques like these is likely to be in treating diseases such as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's. Swedish research has shown that embryonic cells taken from foetuses can alleviate Parkinson's symptoms, but the ethical dimension has always loomed large, trading in aborted foetuses is distasteful. Establishing a culture from a single foetus, then maintaining it for a long period of time, would prove more acceptable.

That is what a company set up by scientists from the Institute of Psychiatry in London plans to do. ReNeuron, founded by Professor Jeffrey Gray, Dr John Sinden and Dr Helen Hodges, will grow foetal brain stem cells in culture, and make them available to neurosurgeons for implanting into patients' brains. Experiments with rodents have shown that the cells migrate to areas of damage in the brain and there adopt the form of the dead cells, restoring function and memory.

The brain is a soft target because it does not reject foreign tissue. For transplants into other parts of a body, it would be necessary either to tailor the cells to match the recipient or, more usefully, to create a universal cell line that anybody would accept.



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

cows, rabbits and sheep, but this was the first time human ES cells had been successfully cultured. The biologists kept them alive for seven months.

They started with material from aborted foetuses five to seven weeks old, extracting cells and keeping them from differentiating into organs by adding materials called cytokines, which control the development process. Eventually, the cells begin to specialise, forming several types of tissue. To find out what these tissues are, the scientists are transplanting the cells into mice whose immune system has been turned off so they cannot reject the transplant. The cells are expected to devel-

A great nose for grapes only

WINE tasters spend their lives learning to distinguish subtle differences in bouquet and flavour. But tests in Sweden reveal that they are only average at detecting odours they do not often experience.

Mats Bende, an ear, nose and throat specialist from Central Hospital in Skövde, and a psychologist, Steven Nordin, of the University of Umeå, asked 22 professional wine tasters to smell a non-wine odour, butanol, in various dilutions to measure their threshold of detection.

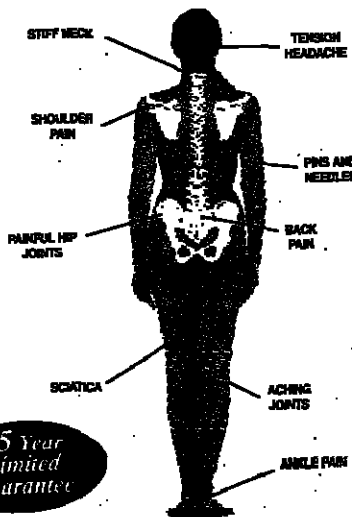
Comparison with non-experts showed no significant difference.

Then they were asked whether a series of solutions had recognisable odours. The wine tasters could detect and name odours found in wine at levels three times more dilute than untrained volunteers.

This included vanilla, lemon, apple, violet, orange, vinegar, aniseed and tar. But faced with the non-wine scents of almond, cinnamon and ammonia, they were no better than the controls, the Swedish team writes in *Physiology and Behaviour*.

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Dominant-handedness is found in no primates apart from human beings. The only other species that shares this trait is the parrot, which favours left-footedness

A big hand in evolution

In ancient times, left-handedness was equated with godlessness; today it is more often equated with genius or exceptional talent. Throughout the ages, left-handers have been regarded with suspicion or reverence. Certain cultures still force children "at risk" of developing left-handedness to use their other hand.

Science has not yet come up with a reason for such a marked imbalance in handedness among human beings. Despite more than half a century of research, experts are still quibbling over how to disentangle the complex web of genes, culture and environment in which the solution to this riddle must lie.

Amid the confusion, a psychologist, Michael Corballis of Auckland University, has

'It is that complexity which makes people special'

Right-handers have been dominant for 5,000 years, but just how such a bias came about remains a mystery. Anjana Ahuja reports

80 per cent likely to be right-handed. One sticking point is that even though identical twins share identical genes, there seems to be little correlation on handedness.

To complicate matters further, handedness seems to be imperfectly allied to another important characteristic: the site of language in the brain. Nine out of ten right-handers use the left part of the brain for processing language; only seven out of ten left-handers use the left hemisphere.

How does this lateral bias in both hand and brain come about? One well-received model, developed by Chris McManus, Professor of Psychology at University College London, postulates a handedness gene that exists in two different versions, or alleles. The D allele represents dextrality (right-handedness), and the C allele represents chance. According to the model, your handedness is cast according to the

permutation you inherit. And there are only three such permutations: DD, CD and CC. DD pairings are always right-handed. CD pairings are 75 per cent likely to be right-handed. CC equates to a 50 per cent chance of being right or left-handed. However, despite fitting the observations well, the model does not explain why or how this handedness could have evolved.

In a paper published in the latest issue of *Psychological Review*, Dr Corballis has drawn together decades of research in an effort to fill in the gaps. He suggests that at some point during the evolution of hominids (a class of primates that includes humans and great apes), the D allele suddenly appeared, possibly as a genetic mutation in one individual. Its main effect

was to introduce an asymmetry or bias in the brain that allowed the development of toolmaking and language — both uniquely human traits — to develop more rapidly than before. And one of the spin-offs was to bias human beings in favour of right-handedness.

Scientists know by perusing artworks through the ages that the proportion of left-handed humans has been constant for 5,000 years. Two alleles of one gene can maintain stable proportions over such a long time only if an unlike pair is "fitter" than other possible pairings. This means a CD pairing must be more advantageous than either CC (no bias) or DD (extreme bias). Being fitter, in evolutionary terms, means that individuals with CD pairings produce more viable offspring than those with the other pairings. That means that a right-left

bias in the brain is genetically superior to a no-bias or extreme-bias situation. But why? Several scientists have suggested that a bias evolved because, for learning purposes, it was more efficient and quicker for speech to be produced and processed by the same hemisphere of the brain.

Professor McManus explains: "If an engineer were building a way, the human brain from scratch, he certainly wouldn't build it in its present form: two equally powerful halves with poor connections. It's like setting up a company with two headquarters, one in London and one in Melbourne, with just the telephone to connect them. That is why we have evolved to have language in one hemisphere."

It makes sense to assume that any bias would be

achieved at the expense of the other side of the brain. In most people, the left hemisphere is larger than the right. Dr Corballis suggests that the D allele is responsible for "pruning" the right side of the brain. A DD pairing results in too much pruning; a CC pairing in too little or none.

According to this hypothesis, those with CC or DD pairings would have their brains wired in a less efficient way. So they should show poorer cognitive skills than those with a CD pairing. Indeed, people who show extreme handedness are less accomplished at reading than moderate right or left-handers. Controversial studies in mathematical skill, spatial reasoning, academic achievement and speech-processing also seem to support the theory.

Dr Corballis ran a simulation which showed that once a

genetic advantage, however tiny, was established, it would spread through a population like wildfire. He estimates it would have taken no longer than 30,000 years, or 1,250 generations, for this mutant allele to establish itself fully.

When could the D allele have emerged? It could have surfaced as *H. sapiens* emerged out of Africa. If *H. sapiens* was previously confined to a small area, it would provide an ideal environment for the rapid and comprehensive spread of a mutation. There are profound consequences of dating the mutation to *H. sapiens*. It explains why toolmaking and language progressed so rapidly over the past 70,000 years, compared with the previous two million. Professor McManus says: "If this mutation determined only handedness, it would be just an eccentric little twist. But it put language in one half of the brain, which allowed us to develop complex social skills. And it is that complexity which makes us special."

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'Two good parents is ideal. One good one is good enough'

Christa Worthington reflects on why she joined a group that helps single women to become mothers

Someone, a date. I think, once asked me if I was afraid of death. Pensive youth that I was, I said no, I wasn't afraid of dying. I was afraid of never having lived.

Well, I didn't marry him or anyone else, and I'm still thinking such thoughts, but they are more pressing now that half my life has gone by. For years I hoarded motherhood carefully, like a squirrel does nuts. I planned to retrieve it one day when I was absolutely safe and sound.

Throughout my thirties my thoughts about babies were often sad and anxious, given that I wasn't becoming a mother when I expected to. But as soon as I had the luck to fall in love, I would revert to glowing optimism, attached to

a particular man. And all would be right with the world — for a time.

Now I am reinventing the world. There is, at the moment, no father for a child of mine, no husband for me, and what if there never is? I have had to stare this scenario in the face, and to my surprise, it hasn't killed me. Instead, I can have my life by claiming the decision of whether or not to become a mother. The decision does not belong entirely to time and circumstances, nor does it belong to anybody else.

This much — the thinking about it — comes as a liberation. At the far end of my childbearing years, choice, the feminist banner I waved in the Seventies, is painted in very different colours. To control fertility now means having the



Christa Worthington: "There is, now, no father for a child of mine, no husband for me. What if there never is? I have had to stare this scenario in the face; to my surprise, it hasn't killed me"

option of conceiving without a man in the picture — a freedom that brings with it awesome responsibility and, like abortion, the occasional wrath of others.

In the parlance of Single Mothers by Choice (SMC), a 15-year-old national support group for women like me, I have become a "Thinker"; someone still in the Rodin pose, who has not yet gone prone, into "trying", through

insemination by an anonymous donor or someone I know. I am also considering adoption. I haven't made up my mind: I'm too preoccupied with wrestling my biological time limit to the ground. It's a weirdly omnipotent yet powerless position — being intensely aware of your reproductive capacities as you watch them fade to black.

"To think," in SMC terms, is to enter a gestation period very like a pregnancy, with its own queasiness, cravings and sensations. It has its emotional distortions and its highs and lows, all moving on the rock

profit organisation, and now has members in most states. She and other mothers share information, run workshops for Thinkers, Tryers and Stuck Thinkers, and network through an SMC newsletter. Of the group's 2,000 members, 98 per cent have a college education, and on average this group earns \$42,000 (£26,000) a year, about \$10,000 more than the average American man in the same age group. Statistics indicate that by 2001, up to 40 per cent of all babies born in the United States will be to single mothers. "People hear that there are two parents

and assume they are good parents," says Ms Mattes. "Two good parents is the ideal. One good parent is good enough."

Ruth offers her donor's number. We could have siblings!

Fifty per cent of Thinkers decide not to have a child. What is the difference between the Thinker who tries and one who doesn't? "You have to grieve the loss of thought: your life would be of the ideal," Ms Mattes says. That, for me, is the irony of being a Thinker: you must embrace the heart-rending imperfections that you have spent a lifetime sanding smooth: making sure not to marry the wrong man or put a child in a shaky situation.

The key is to not see yourself as a failure," says my friend Ruth, seven months pregnant by anonymous donor insemination (DI), and I feel a flood of relief. I held the door open for Ruth at my first SMC meeting, and she has since shot past me, to pregnancy by a donor whose long form (medical and genetic history going back three generations) and audiotape she liked. "I still want a husband for me and a father for my child. I still have that dream," she says. "I've just postponed it."

A year ago, Ruth and I

walked into an SMC meeting in Manhattan together, in the basement of a community centre that felt like a bomb shelter. Where were the men? Had there been a war? Women of all shapes and sizes, beautiful and not, well-off and not, had gathered in a circle of chairs around toddlers fighting over toys. Anxiety was palpable among the Tryers, though not from the Mothers — they seemed serene. DI is an emotional rollercoaster of hope and disappointment that can go on for months at (at least) \$700 a cycle. A few of the women had quasi-partners in the wings: longstanding relationships with married or unavailable men.

We broke up into small circles of Tryers, Thinkers and Mothers. An elegant brunette bent her ear to a tape recorder, to scrutinise, in a dreamy, rhapsodic way, the voice of the donor whose sperm she had ordered. Women fanned out around her like children at story hour, all wanting to hear. He sounded great, they assured her. Then the voice on the tape made a grammatical slip, and the brunette winced.

Taped interviews in which a donor responds to questions about his health, family and interests are the latest offering from an industry increasingly pressured to be less anonymous, especially by SMCs. I go for a smooth baritone. "Distinguishing characteristics... I can't think of any," said a 24-year-old history major whose tape I had ordered, and I thought I heard a voice I could listen to for a lifetime.

I see I am in a new stage of the process. I have begun to do things I never thought I would. I read the long profiles three times over before I go to sleep, divining beauty in the merest description: black hair, green eyes. I research adoption agencies, then stop, overwhelmed.

"Are you looking for eggs?"

asks the nurse in the waiting room of the fertility clinic. I have come here for preliminary tests, to buy time as I waste it. Crates holding frozen sperm in containers of liquid nitrogen are left, like milk, by the door. "No, I'm looking for sperm," I say, and the rock star on the modular sofa laughs. The doctor directs me to binders of profiles, selected at random from the sperm bank, from which I am to peruse my future. (Photos of sperm donors remain unavailable, even though photos of young female egg donors are offered in triplicate — smiling, full-length and in close-up.) "We'll start with DI, and if that doesn't work in a few months, we'll go to in vitro," he declares. In vitro, extracting eggs to fertilise in a Petri dish, is an entirely different animal to me, one that costs \$7,000 to \$10,000 a try. So I am

cheered by the note on a donor form, written in the donor's own hand, that his mother looked like Liz Taylor "without the ensuing weight gain". I feel torrents of warmth for this man. But he's "out", as in "sold out", when I phone the 800 number to order.

"I think my donor's cute," says Ruth, never having seen him, and she offers me his donor number, four digits long. This is an incredible act of generosity. We could have siblings! (He has also sold out.) I later learn that SMC has started a sibling registry.

"I want to tell you to just go ahead," Ruth says. "But I know it's a hard decision." She seems so far ahead of me, as well as near. "I really can't wait to see this kid," she says in a tone unique to this new blind faith, and we fall silent thinking those old thoughts: Whose hair? Whose eyes?

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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 1997

Manchester United ruined my life

Supporting Manchester City is one of football's great lost causes. So why do five old friends keep doing it? Interview by Jason Cowley

True Manchester City fans will never forget Sunday, May 5, 1996 — the day their beloved team were relegated after losing at home to Liverpool, and their despised rivals, Manchester United, won the FA Cup Premiership. It was the day, too, when four men returned to the city of their childhood to mark more than 40 years of friendship and devotion to one of football's great lost causes: supporting Manchester City.

They were Colin Shindler, a writer and producer, David Green, a film director and managing director of September Films, Jeffrey Cohen and Michael Chadwick. "It was the most extraordinary weekend," Shindler says. "It seemed like this siren call had gone out from Maine Road [City's home ground], drawing people home from all over the world."

Howard Davies, a close friend of Shindler and chairman of the Financial Services Association — as well as former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England — was also at a game given added resonance by the fact that it coincided with the 40th anniversary of City's FA Cup Final victory over Birmingham — when the Manchester goalkeeper, Bert Trautmann, a former German prisoner-of-war, famously played on in great pain after breaking his neck.

The friends' reunion inspired Shindler to write *Manchester United Ruined My Life*, an autobiographical account of his devotion to Manchester City, which will be published by Hodder Headline next spring. The book touches on the glorious irrationality of fandom, something psychologically complex and bound up with tribalism and feelings of identity and belonging. It is a powerful force over which one has absolutely no control.

For the true fan, loyalties formed in childhood can never be altered: not even if, as in the case of Manchester City, supporting a failure of a football club brings with it only misery and dejection, brings with it, as it does for Shindler and his friends, the only source of weakness in a life of professional strength.

The contrast between the position of the two Manchester clubs could not be starker. United, the richest and arguably most glamorous club in the world, are top of the Premiership and among the favourites to win the European Cup. For United the 1990s has been a procession of success: four championships, two FA Cups and two Doubles; their wealth is boosted by an incomparable merchandising empire.

City, in a state of perpetual crisis, are floundering at the bottom of the First Division. The club, which has the potential to be one of the biggest in England, has never been in a worse position in its 110-year history. A second relegation in three years is possible.

Unlike City, with its stadium in depressed Moss Side and support drawn largely from within Manchester, United are a national, even international, club, with a cosmopolitan glamour. The old joke about never hearing a Manchester accent at Old Trafford — United's marvellous stadium — has a ring of satirical truth: there are as many Cockney as Mancunian

United fans. City remain resolutely local: gritty, poor, stubbornly proud. Yet Shindler can no more switch allegiance to United than he can change the colour of his eyes: supporting City is intrinsic to who he is. As Davies puts it: "My support of City is not a matter of choice. I inherited two fatal flaws from my father: premature baldness and Manchester City, neither of which I can change. It's like a tribal bond, something irreversible."



Shindler with his hero Colin Bell

As a financial regulator, Davies leads a life, he says, of bounded rationality: quantitative, rigorous, analytical. "My work involves logic and rationality. Yet supporting City is clearly irrational. What is happening at the club is disastrous, awful; but no matter how bad it gets I have this emotional attachment to them that I cannot break."

As for Davies, so with Shindler and Green: supporting City is a tie that binds, a narrative thread linking their boyhood in Manchester to their London lives of ambition and affluent achievement. They have collaborated on numerous projects and films, including *Buster*, about the train robber Buster Edwards, which starred Phil Collins.

"The club has always been a thread in our lives," Shindler says. "If the phone rings after a game, it's either David or

Howard. When we were separated by 6,000 miles [Green spent four years in Los Angeles], I knew David was listening to the World Service or logged on to the Net trying to find out the result. I knew he was having the same response as me to another home defeat."

David Green adds, laughing: "I can remember those early mornings in California — fiddling with my long-wave radio trying to find the World Service; and I knew Colin was there in England waiting for the same result, sharing the experience."

City even brought them together when they fell out after *Buster*. "After that film I grabbed most of the success," Green says. "I went to direct in Hollywood, leaving Colin, who wrote the script, holding the proverbial baby in Muswell Hill. I was making a lot of money, living the millionaire's life."

Shindler interjects: "It wasn't a money thing. Like Howard, I'm not really interested in money. You can take everything away from me except my books. But I thought we were partners, we did everything together..." His voice fades.

The two friends are relaxing in the Sobo offices of September Films. They have the ease of a lifetime of friendship.

They met at Bury Grammar School in the late 1950s, where their Jewishness and mutual love of City brought them together. Mention of the Bert Trautmann Cup Final animates them: they spar like teenagers as they discuss past matches and the possible reasons for the prolonged malaise at City.

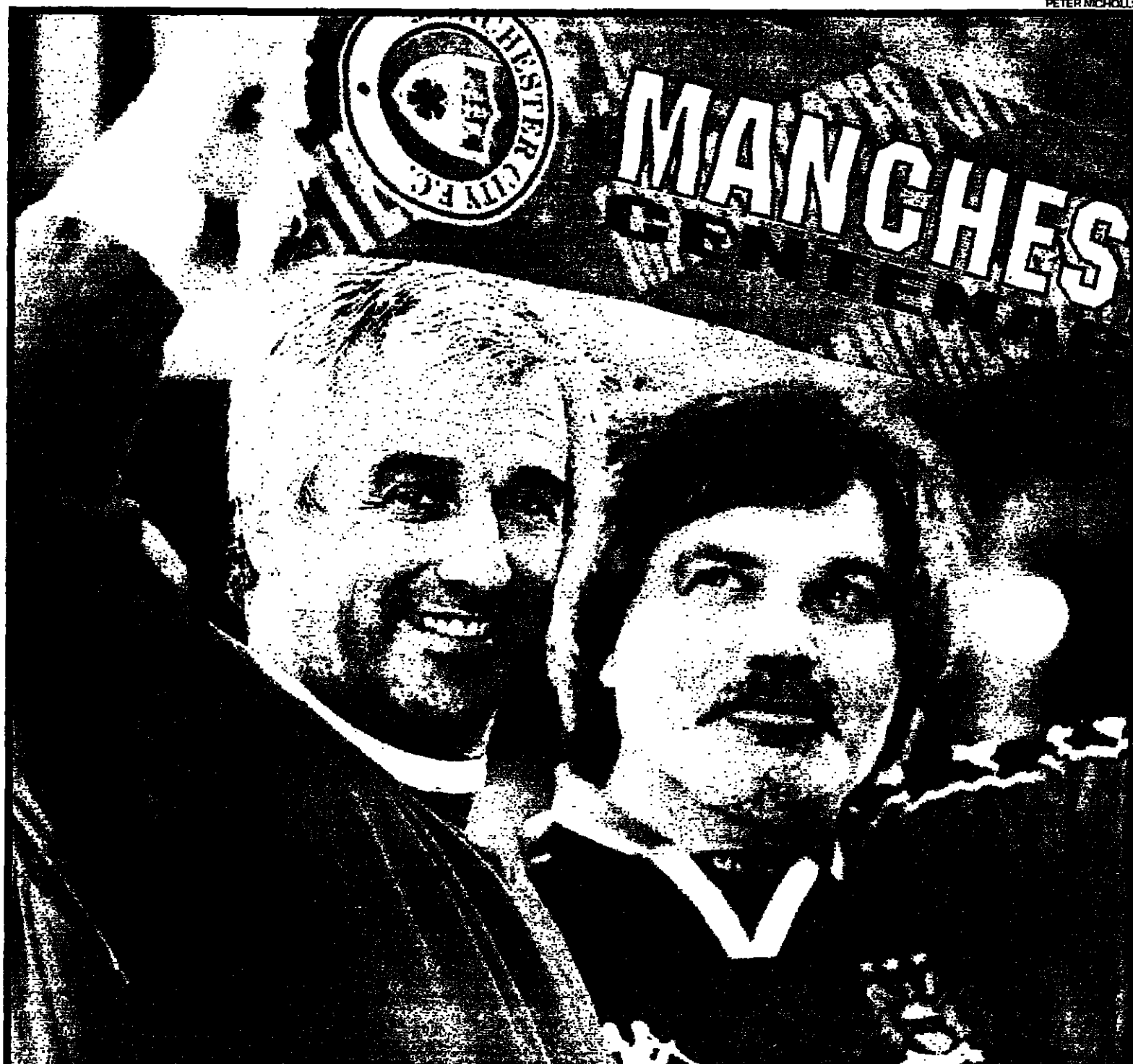
"For our generation that match was the defining moment," Shindler says of the 1956 final. It was the game that made Green a City fan. "I remember watching it on television when I was seven," he says. "I later met Howard Davies at primary school. He stood out not just because he was going bald at the age of eight, but because he was one of the few Manchester City fans at the school."

He breaks off to laugh, pointing out that he and Davies have always enjoyed a playfully antagonistic relationship. After primary school Green went to Bury, where he met Colin Shindler, and Howard Davies to Manchester Grammar. They met up again at Oxford; they share little, Green jokes, but their enduring, fanatical support for City. "We only ever meet either in the gift shop at Maine Road or at a mutual friend's party. But in fairness to Howard, he was probably going bald precisely because he was one of the few Manchester City fans. Even in those days there seemed to be a huge dominance of United fans — what with the Busby Babes and, later, the Munich disaster."

For his part, Davies has no recollection of David Green at primary school. "I met him at Oxford," he says, sternly. "He introduced me to Colin, who was at Cambridge, and with whom I go to watch City all the time. I haven't seen David at many games."

Even in their contempt for United the two old university friends are at odds. Davies, describing himself as a City rather than a football fan, would rather never watch another match than see United. "I absolutely loathe them. What gets to me about United is their ubiquity; you can't avoid them. They've even got Bobby Charlton's daughter presenting the weather."

Green, who gently dismisses Shindler and Davies as roundheads ("in Howard's case quite literally"), concedes



Shindler and David Green: supporting City is the tie that binds, a thread linking their boyhood in Manchester to their London lives of ambition and affluence

that as a "flash bugger" he ought to follow United. He is also more "cavalier" in his support of City, less intense in his loathing of United. He says: "Colin and I have light and shade in our relationship between United and City; we are as passionate as Howard but much more objective. The reason, I think, is that Colin and I have brothers who are fanatical United fans. Howard is an only child and his obsession is total. Siblings bring balance to opinion: Howard is total in his likes and dislikes; he loves success and hates failure. But at the centre of his life is this disaster zone that contradicts everything he believes in."

Again Davies disagrees.

"All this about being an only child... I have always regarded myself as a gregarious person, not some driven loner. It sounds like cod psychology to me."

Yet for all their sparring and protestations of gloom, one feels that these City fans would not want things any other way; that they derive a perverse pleasure from following what Davies calls "this utterly hopeless quest."

They clearly seek to discover abundance in loss, by locating happiness in the search for glory rather than in its realisation; in the pursuit of happiness, not its fulfilment. Shindler says: "Yes, you're right. I rather like being an outsider, the whingeing bloke on the sidelines, not part of the in-crowd. I like the fact that City will always be seen as the other club in town. This was the case even when we were the better team in the late 1960s and early 1970s. I would hate it if City became fashionable." And so would Davies and Green, who concedes that City's failure is a levelling influence in his life.

But are they being a touch disingenuous? As the chosen team of the Gallagher brothers of Oasis, City surely have acquired a kind of negative glamour, a frayed fashionability, as it were. Green partially agrees, but counters thus: "But even here United have the edge. Look, City might have the rude and vulgar Gallagher brothers as supporters, but United's star player, David Beckham, goes out with one of the Spice Girls. You see what I mean: it's cooler having a player who goes to bed with a Spice Girl than famous supporters who are rude and disgusting. United seem to top City at every stage."

The room fills with laughter. You leave them trading soft insults like boys as they rummage in their sports bags for their light blue Manchester City shirts.



Howard Davies: "My support for City is tribal"

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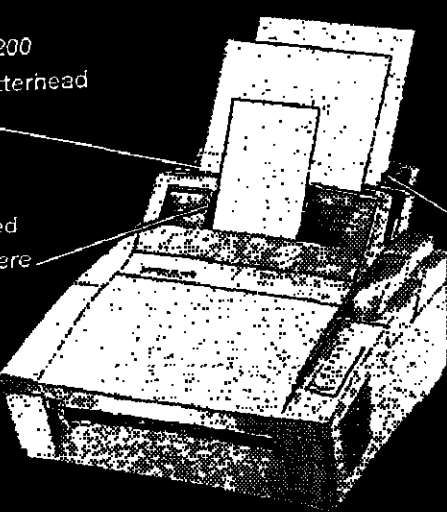
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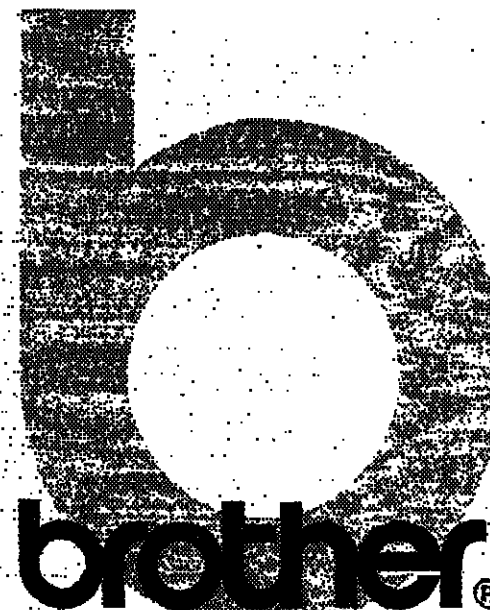
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A few weeks ago a university lecturer accused me in one of his lectures of being a white, heterosexual, male English novelist. Clearly he wanted his students to perceive this as a crucial limitation, even evidence of a malaise, for he added that these crimes meant that I was a supporter of the canon of English literature — Chaucer, Shakespeare, George Eliot, Waugh, Murdoch — which meant that I was utterly condemned in the estimation of lecturers such as himself, forgers of the new charter of letters.

Perhaps this is an isolated incident. I've been told that the universities of Britain are emptying of the sloganeering, politically correct torturers of yesterday. That caricature was reinforced by the fiction of colleagues whose careers straddled the academy and the novel in which they so often gave their learned colleagues a very bad press. If those of us who did not read English at university have a fearful view of what goes on there, then our perception, our fault can be laid at

Why am I published and damned?

the pages of those who brought us news from the front in their damning fictions. So the accusation may have been the stray remark of a sad leftover.

Nevertheless, it pricked up my ears because it has undoubted resonance. One day, possibly, it may seem a good time to attempt to set down at some length a chronicle of the trajectory that took me from scribbling Keatsian (as I hoped) verse in secret at 15 to the publishing of a novel ten years later and going on from there. There were obstacles and surprises which might bear the telling, not least the continuing involvement of English literature and its critics with the English class system and its endless permutations. There is also the clash between the sensibilities and perceptions of the working class and those of other cultures in this society — often as wide a gap as

that between different civilisations.

Then there is the whole issue of being involved in the media as well as in writing, and the way that relationship has corkscrewed through the past three decades.

But this white male heterosexual English business is worth a few remarks now, because it applies to so many of us writing today. It may be open to instant rebuttal to say that being a WMHE author over the past three decades has indeed felt like being not so much marginal-



ised (demonstrably untrue) but certainly set aside by history. The real tides sweeping to the shore were carrying other cargo.

Feminism came in like a lioness and although for generations women have claimed parity of quality in fiction, the notion of women's literature, literature about women and literature not only explaining but championing women, gathered great force from the 1960s. Its association with a vital and necessary movement in society gave it a relevance

which no WMHE author could hope to share, however sympathetic he might be to women in his fiction and in his politics. The women had it.

So did the non-English, whether it was the non-English of the English-speaking Old Commonwealth whose writers were told and still are told have reinvented the tired old WMHE novel, or those magical realists from South America whose new manipulations of old fables sent a thrill of liberation through some part of the generation; or the Americans whose hugely impressive and ambitious writers overawed many of their long ago colonial masters. The non-English had it.

And the non-white. There has been and continues to be a surge in literature drawing its material

specifically from a non-white past. Some claim to discover in that past a reservoir of energy denied to whites because of their guilt, shame and exhaustion. The non-whites had it.

And the non-heterosexuals. Once again a stream which has run steadily through English literature for centuries became a flood after oppressive and unfair laws were cut off and homosexuality could disengage itself from criminality and public opprobrium. Again, almost step by step with feminism and non-white literature, the tide brought in a new mass of work which, again, almost defined itself against the WMHE novelists.

All this has some historical validity and has brought many positive qualities to the novel. What our lecturer missed, though, was the most important thing of all. Simply, never trust the teller, trust the tale. Good fiction, like any other art, can choose to come from the most unexpected sources — and even in 1997 that includes white male heterosexual Englishmen.

Horse play but no fun

The shock of Peter Shaffer's 1973 classic will always be the obscene, wilful act of a 17-year-old boy who blinds six horses with a metal spike. Even now, in a culture supposedly hardened to such arbitrary violence, this act still has a taboo-like impact.

Terry Hands launches his first season as artistic director of Theatre Cloyd with a daring staging set in slate-like darkness with characters picked out by lonely spotlights. Here, in a flurry of intense encounters, we witness the uncanny spell that the horse-mad boy Alan Strang exerts on the imagination of his middle-aged psychologist, Martin Dysart. A single chair provides the only visible sign of comfort in a sapping first half that short-circuits Alan's supposed madness with Martin's spiritually bankrupt life.

It proves a surreal, slightly dreamy match in which all the

Equus
Theatre Cloyd

characters are dressed in whites or creams, as if their natural juices had been bleached out of them. Frank Grimes's fearful Martin may be the sophisticated analyst, but he is in awe of the savage sado-erotic faith that he is paid to cut out of Alan. In every respect this play is really his tragedy, but Grimes's tortured analyst gives in too easily to Oliver Ryan's compelling Alan. The pop-eyed teenager worships horses with the intensity of only the most religious and demented.

His mother, Lynne Verrell's Dora, and his father, Robert Blythe's Frank, muddy the waters with their marital tug-of-war over who is to blame. But these seem like incidental squabbles until Manon Eames's febrile stable girl Heather precipitates the dangerous endgame when she finally forces Alan into the barn (his temple to Equus) for sex. The resultant drama is like watching a car crash replayed in slow motion; a nightmarish metaphor for a youth who blends sex with the worst excesses of religion.

Despite the thriller-like quality of Hands's production, he never quite unlocks the Greek passions his production aspires to. Raw spirituality is an easy winner over rational middle age. Yet there are some sterling performances, particularly the (human) horses, choreographed by Jane Elliott, who creepily and brilliantly steal the show. I'd put a five on Alan Raglan's supremely convincing Nugget to win Horse of the Year.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Disney roars on stage

If you were feeling unkind, or maybe just being painfully frank, you could dismiss Disney's movie *The Lion King* as a not-very-inventive cartoon that got pretty preachy about that all-American obsession, the need to prove yourself to a loving but demanding Pa. Equally, you might accuse Disney's stage version of *Beauty and the Beast* of being a piece of sentimental frippery whose dancing cups and saucers were the more irritating for their over-abundance of technological wizardry.

But your sour feelings about the Disneyesque would surely vanish after an evening in the New Amsterdam theatre. Not only have they transformed a derelict old playhouse in the gruttiest part of 42nd Street into a pleasure dome that looks as if it has been jointly decorated by Della Robbia and Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Their stage version of *The Lion King* is imaginatively so superior both to the movie version and to *Beauty and the Beast* that it left this ageing

The Lion King
New York

sceptic itching to run round Times Square shouting paeans to the unique power of theatre.

Most parents will know the story. King Mufasa's murder is sneakily arranged by his brother Scar and his son and heir, the cub Simba, is sent packing. In the desert he is befriended and brought up by a warthog and a meerkat. Simba matures and, despite his feelings of guilt for his father's death, returns to defeat Scar's hyena henchmen and claim his heritage. With a cast consisting entirely of articulate animals, the film was often fun, sometimes cute, occasionally touching, but not so convincing when it came to talking up nature's "delicate balance" and passing off hungry carnivores as crusaders for a sound ecology.

On the stage, Roger Allers and Irene Mecchi's book is the same and not at all the same. The feel has totally changed, thanks to the brilliant young director-designer Julie Taymor. You sense it the moment rhinos, elephants, gazelles and other exotic-looking creatures pour in from the wings and up the aisles to authentically African chants. What we are about to experience is partly a wonderfully challenging game of let's-pretend, partly a ritual retelling of an exemplary tale of death and renewal in the Dark Continent.



No lion sleeps tonight: the unique power of theatre and Julie Taymor's brilliant designs bring Elton John's *Circle of Life* song dazzlingly to life

That explains why there is no attempt wholly to disguise the actors. A human chorus sometimes appears, swaying and singing in full tribal costume. Since you can see them, you are always aware that people are manipulating creatures that take scores of forms: puppets big and little, masks large and small, stylised bodies with bits of person protruding from them, birds whirling from sticks, even a Heath Robinson trike tricked out with tiny, leaping antelopes. A giraffe is various-

ly an elegant sculpture on spindly crutches and stilts, a gaudy wigwag with a skull on top, and a silhouette glimpsed behind a white cloth.

Though geysers spout and the dead Mufasa's face spectacularly appears from a heavy mass of clouds and rocks, the high-tech stuff is unobtrusive or non-existent. Drought is signalled simply by a blue cloth slowly disappearing into a hole. The marvellously inventive stampede that kills Samuel Wright's Mufasa (himself a majestic blend of

pharaoh, Roman centurion and leonine superhero) ends with him lost amid clattering figures with vast wildebeest masks and hairy, satyr-like legs. Tribal ceremony and mythic story become one.

Elton John and Tim Rice's more un-African songs, which include that perky ode to sloth *Hakuna Matata* and a beautiful lament for lost paradise called *Shadowland*, might have clashed with the veld-and-jungle mood; but Taymor's production bounced me into buying them and, indeed,

everything else. It takes exceptional skill to integrate John Vickery's sneering, lacquered Scar with Max Casella's jokey meerkat, and them with vegetation that variously consists of simple fronds and spiky grasses, balloon-like bulges of cacti, and green-painted dancers — but Taymor brings it off.

Myself, I was far too preoccupied with the crows snapping below a shaken-sheet waterfall, the hyena lowlife that was snickering its way through the elephant assuay

and the other marvels on stage to take any notice of the New Amsterdam during the performance. But a happy interval may be spent admiring the Victorian murals and stained glass, the sculpted roses and peacocks and huge, solemn Muses of the most splendidly restored playhouse I have seen. Indeed, the whole experience left me with the strangest feeling. I was proud to be a theatre critic.

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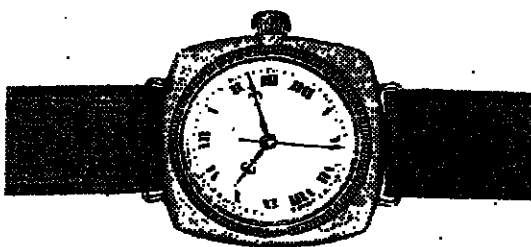


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My plans to clean up party politics

Tony Blair says reform of funding is long overdue

The funding of political parties is one of the great unresolved questions of our democracy. No one who examines the current free-for-all believes it works well, or fairly. Yet for years nothing has been done. And until this Parliament there has been no Government prepared to take action to end the abuses.

As I promised long before the election, the Labour Party wants openness and fairness in procedures for party funding. So today, for the first time, the political will in government exists. So, too, does the means — a full review by the Neill committee, the successor to Nolan, which can set out clearly the principles and procedures all parties should follow.

The Labour Party made an important start in reform before the last election. I made it clear we would ban all foreign donations. We are doing it. I said we would publish a list of all donors where donations are more than £5,000. And I have.

But that is only a start. The questions are whether there should be ceilings on the overall amount spent in national elections; whether there should be top limits for individual donations; and whether the name and amount of individual and company donors should be published.

Each of these suggestions would represent a major reform in itself. Taken together, they would add up to a completely new world of electoral finance, making for greater openness and fairness in our democracy. And it remains open to consider whether there should be business funding at all.

For years the Conservatives have been able to collect millions directly and from front organisations. They have done so from abroad as well as from home. They have collected without ever formally naming the source of any donation. They have never declared one penny of the money they have received.

Even when pressed about dubious donors such as Asil Nadir, they have merely promised to consider the matter after a prosecution in a British court and even now failed to keep their promise to return the money. Recent promises to provide lists of donors have yet to be honoured. Today, while Labour has already acted, the Conservatives clearly have no desire to be open and above board.

Some say Labour should go beyond the reforms we have already proposed, and unilaterally set our own limits for the size of individual donations while at the same time naming all donors and the amounts they give.

Indeed, some say it would be right not only to propose this but to do it irrespective of what other parties are prepared to do. Yet the consequences for elections of this unilateral action should be considered in detail. It is not just that Labour donors alone would be subject to the kind of grotesque misrepresentation that David Sainsbury, Alec Reed and others have suffered in recent days. It is also that if the Conservatives refused to

play by decent rules, while others exercised openness and restraint, then elections would be even less fair and democracy would suffer.

Far from advancing the cause of fairness, we would merely be aggravating an unjust position that has existed all century — where the Conservatives, with secret funding, have been able to outspend every other rival many times over.

So the question that must be faced is whether other parties will voluntarily do likewise, and if they do not what should be done. Clearly if they refuse to play by the rules, then there is no level playing field and democracy suffers.

The Labour Party will take its own position in its submission to Sir Patrick Neill. I will be recommending the toughest possible set of rules. If there is one lesson to be learnt from this episode, it is that the current rules do not work. I believe there to be a powerful case for national limits on electoral expenditures. We will also be ready to limit individual and company donations to a modest amount. At the same time we stand ready to publish names and amounts.

We will be ready also to consider any proposals Sir Patrick has for state funding of political parties. At the moment state funding exists almost by the backdoor — through support for Parliamentary research; Opposition party funding; help with free postage for all candidates sending their election addresses; and free TV time for party political broadcasts. Any examination of state funding should take all this into account. I remain, however, instinctively cautious about further such funding.

As the Neill investigation proceeds we are happy, too, to submit a list of all past donors, and to do so for the past five years. So we will be happy to open our books. But it is right that if we do that every party does so, and if Sir Patrick decides this is right we will offer legislative backing for any requests he makes.

Reform is necessary, but it will require to be backed by measures to counteract loopholes and avoidance. So we have to be clear that we can avoid opportunities for front organisations to receive money. We have to be sure that there are arrangements in place for a proper policing of the system. And we have to be clear that we can ensure foreign funding is banned for good. We must not end up, as in the United States, with rules that start with the promise of tightening up on party donations and end in avoidance and then disillusionment.

Yesterday I apologised over the handling of the Formula One affair, and vowed that we learn the lessons. We will. One of them is that the laws on funding should be reformed sooner rather than later. Out of the difficulties of the past week, and out of the real scandals of the Tory years, can come changes that make for a healthier democracy. I stand ready to help Sir Patrick Neill bring in those changes. I urge other party leaders to join me.

Isaiah Berlin and Jimmy Goldsmith were utterly different personalities — but Jewishness was at their core

Last Thursday I went to the celebration in memory of Sir James Goldsmith at St John's, Smith Square, on Saturday and Sunday evening I viewed Michael Ignatieff's beautifully peaceful interviews with Sir Isaiah Berlin on BBC2. I knew both men, about equally well, and had a rather similar relationship with each, one of long-standing and friendly acquaintance. As Henry Kissinger, who became a close friend of Jimmy Goldsmith only late in life, said of their early relationship, Jimmy burst unpredictably into his from time to time, with the longest intervals in between.

It was the same in my case. I tried to act as an honest broker in a settlement of his libel action against *Private Eye* in the 1970s; he wanted to buy *The Times* in 1980; I played a walk-on part in the great bid for BATs in the late 1980s, when he invented the word "unbundling"; he backed my appeal to the courts against the Maastricht treaty; I was somewhat sympathetic to the Referendum Party, but thought its political strategy was unwise.

The core of what I admired and liked about both men had something to do with the Jewish formation of their minds. I once interviewed Golda Meir in Israel when she was Prime Minister. She used a phrase about herself which has stuck in my memory; she said she was "a non-observant Jewess". Both Isaiah and Jimmy were certainly non-observant; neither had any formal religious belief, Jewish or otherwise. Like Golda Meir, Isaiah was deeply Jewish in his ethnic consciousness; Jimmy, in his personal way, was deeply half-Jewish. He had a very strong sense of his father's Jewish roots, but an equally strong loyalty to his mother's French peasant, and therefore, Catholic, ancestry. At the end, it is said that he found himself thinking increasingly about spiritual reality. I did not discuss these matters

Two men with their hearts in history

with him — though I now wish I had. In the last long conversation I had with him, which was almost a year before his death, I felt he was more a Catholic than a Jew in relation to the next world, and more a Jew than a Catholic in relation to this one, but he had faith in neither religion.

There was no Catholicism in Isaiah Berlin, and no belief in God either. Michael Ignatieff brought out an apparent contradiction in his liberal philosophy. He denied believing in absolutes, yet he also denied being a relativist; he recognised evil and opposed it. It was as though he saw evil as an absolute, and saw the absolute evil of Soviet Communism, but could not bring himself to regard any good as absolute; people had to choose good for themselves and build their own systems of value.

By the standards they set themselves, the lives of Isaiah Berlin and Jimmy Goldsmith were modest affairs, too successful to be called failures, but falling short of their highest potential. Isaiah Berlin was an influential liberal thinker, who played a gallant part in the mid-20th-century counterattack on totalitarian dogmatism. He was a student of the history of ideas rather than an original philosopher. Jimmy Goldsmith built up a great fortune, which was his aim, but did not found a great business. His excursions into politics were well financed, but he could do little to hold back the tide of history when it was running against him. The fact that these two men were

among the most interesting and valuable people of their time, does not alter the limitation in their achievement; that was fully recognised in his own case by Isaiah Berlin in the Ignatieff interviews.

Their most admirable quality was not that they prevailed, though each had an important influence, but that they struggled with the great issues. My own experience is that this struggle has been much more common among my Jewish than among my non-Jewish friends; among other

great admirers is George Steiner, he has spent his life trying to understand the impact on culture of the experience of the Holocaust. In a rather similar way, Isaiah Berlin tried to understand the impact on liberty of the experience of Stalinism. Our historic context is very different from that of earlier generations and demands this rethinking.

Jimmy Goldsmith, though himself highly intelligent, tried to answer these great questions by actions rather than theories. He believed in a much more freebooting liberty than that of Isaiah Berlin, but liberty was not his central theme. That was tribalism. The most moving moments of the service of celebration were all tribal. Chief Buthezi processed to the dais, dancing to a Zulu chant; Henry Kissinger spoke of the "miracle" of a close friendship late in life of two men who, while being so many other things, were also German Jews by ancestry; the celebration included the music of the Mexican mariachis; it closed with the New Orleans spiritual *When the Saints go marching in*.

Jimmy Goldsmith was fascinated by other ethnicities because he had so many himself — Jewish, French, English and German to start with. He also had several times the normal genetic share of manhood, which made his private life so complex but so warm, gave him his extraordinary authority, and made him seem rather like an Old Testament patriarch. He was a sympathetic and heroic figure

for other ultra-masculine cultures, including the Mexican and the Zulu. I always admired the wisdom of Isaiah Berlin's belief in the values of liberty; for him it was rightly a battle of the books, rather than of the barricades. I went with Jimmy Goldsmith's campaign only as far as the battle of the law courts, and thought Putney a bridge too far. Yet Goldsmith's central insight, though a harder truth, may have been the more significant; he believed that liberty can be preserved only through the individual nation. Listening to the second of the Ignatieff interviews, when Isaiah Berlin rejected the State which treats the citizen as a child, one felt that he had at last seen the threat in the European project, and had realised the difference between his values and those of Brussels.

With Goldsmith there was no doubt. He was English, French and German; that did not castrate his sense of nationhood. He knew that the European project had become a threat to all three of these nations, and that the individual nations were still the guarantors of liberty. Of course, Isaiah Berlin saw that this was true of Israel and of the Palestinian nation as well.

Both men may by now be surprised to find themselves in the next world, in which they did not properly believe. Yet the existence of a religious reality shines through the work of both their lives. For Isaiah Berlin, truth and liberty, in which he put his faith, were spiritual absolutes even if he did not think they were. For Jimmy Goldsmith, courage and loyalty were his absolutes, but he also felt the archaic animism of all his tribal religions. I have no idea what the words of Chief Buthezi's chant meant, but they spoke to me of the Zulu gods welcoming home a tribal hero. When the saints go marching in, both men will be in their number.

It's no good just being sorry

Mr Blair needs to go further to regain the initiative, says Peter Riddell

Saying sorry is not enough. Tony Blair belatedly acknowledged yesterday that the Government had made mistakes in its handling of the exemption of Formula One from the tobacco sponsorship ban. But his "trust me" apology, however rare from a Prime Minister, will not end the affair.

I do not believe that Mr Blair's decision was influenced by the £1 million donation from Bernie Ecclestone. The Prime Minister's account of how policy was made was convincing, even if ministers have been naive in accepting at face value the warnings about Formula One shifting overseas and the grossly inflated estimates of the impact on employment.

Less convincing, however, was Mr Blair's explanation of how and when he realised there was a conflict of interest. He argued that this threat arose only earlier this month, when the decision was taken, rather than on October 16, when he met Mr Ecclestone. While several options were being considered during the second half of October, Mr Blair and other ministers were then already sympathetic to Formula One, as is apparent from the Civil Service note of the meeting released yesterday. He should have acted earlier over the £1 million donation. Similarly, his account of the involvement of Sir Patrick Neill, the new chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, is partial. Far from willingly publishing the latter's advice, as Mr Blair implied yesterday, Sir Patrick had to press Downing Street for the release of the exchange of letters after a misleading version



Tony Blair and Sir Patrick Neill, who had to put pressure on Downing Street to release an exchange of letters

had been presented by official spokesmen.

But these are now footnotes. The real question is how parties can raise money without creating conflicts of interest when they are in office. The potential problems have been aggravated by a shift in the sources of political funds. Big companies have been giving less money to the Tories, while the Blair leadership has been keen to reduce Labour's dependence on the trade unions. This has meant raising more from wealthy individuals and businessmen, who provided as much as £15 million in total for Labour in the nine months up to the election. This also reflected the belief of Mr Blair and his advisers that Labour has unfairly suffered in the past from being "outsized" by the Tories. In particular, more has been

spent on highly skilled staff rather than on posters and advertising. There is little evidence that often exaggerated differences in levels of spending make nearly as much difference as party insiders pretend.

More important is the private donations on the scale made by the likes of Mr Ecclestone secure access and influence. The Tories have always pretended that such conflicts do not exist. But after the allegations of the past few years, the public will not take such assurances on trust.

The Government has admittedly done more than the Tories ever did, in proposing a Bill in the current session requiring disclosure of the names of donors of more than £5,000

and a ban on foreign donations. And Mr Blair has asked the Neill committee to look into the funding of parties (though he should have consulted the committee's terms of reference). He leaves no doubt in the article on this page of his desire for tight controls on contributions and spending, leading to far-reaching changes in our party system. But there is a danger of putting an excessive load on Sir Patrick's committee.

First, Mr Blair was wrong to ask Sir Patrick to advise on the Ecclestone donation. Lord Nolan, Sir Patrick's predecessor, always insisted that the committee's job was to examine how existing procedures work and to recommend changes, rather than to consider individual cases. Some members of the committee think it is

a mistake to blur the rule-making and implementing functions. Sir Patrick was put in an impossible position since no one else was available to provide such guidance. This is outside the remit of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, while successive Cabinet Secretaries have suffered from advising ministers on such matters. In the event, Sir Patrick provided sensible and robust advice (fortunately, given that he did not know the size of the donation). But his committee should consider whether to set up a small, independent Office of Government Ethics, as in America, to advise on such ethical conflicts and interpretation of the Ministerial Code.

Secondly, the answer to charges about influence-peddling is disclosure. The Government could consult quickly on this in time for the Bill in the current session. For instance, not only the source but also the size of donations of more than £5,000 should be named within a month of being made. There are problems of definition — for instance, to cover front organisations — but the wider the disclosure the better.

These questions could be dealt with separately from the longer-term study of party funding. This is complicated enough, and all the committee should perhaps attempt is to take evidence and clarify the options, and their pitfalls, leaving the politicians to determine such inherently controversial matters as caps on donations and national expenditure and state funding.

The Ecclestone affair has shaken, but not so far irreparably damaged, public trust in Mr Blair. The puzzle is why it took the Prime Minister and his close advisers so long to recognise its seriousness. Something went wrong in Downing Street last week. Underlying this is the deeper, underlying problem of adjusting from the informality of Opposition to the more demanding standards of Government. Mr Blair has started to regain the political initiative. But he needs to go further. Leaving it all to the Neill committee is not enough. The Government should act now to remove doubts over conflicts of interest and disclosure.

Seed's sprout

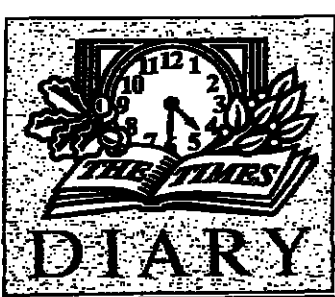
JONATHAN AITKEN is seeking salvation. I understand that the disgraced former Cabinet minister is considering converting to Rome. He has told friends that he plans to visit a retreat at a leading Roman Catholic public school with a view to taking instruction. Times are clearly turbulent for Aitken, who has lost his seat, his libel action and even his marriage. It was believed that he was seeking redemption amid the well-heeled happy-clappy set when he was spotted last month at the ultra-Protestant Holy Trinity Brompton, in Knightsbridge. He was said to be starting a ten-week course to mug up on "the principles of Christianity".

Instead, he might follow in the spiritual footsteps of his former colleagues Ann Widdecombe and John Gummer by heading off to Rome. The former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, once so bright and amusing, has been helped through his period of doubt by Lord Patten, the former Education Secretary. It is thought that Aitken has held talks with Father Michael Seed, the mercurial ecumenical adviser to Cardinal Basil Hume. The good father is becoming a celebrity scout, having signed up both Widdecombe and Gummer. He is also talking to Aitken's old friend, Alan Clark, about converting. After checking out a retreat centre at Ampleforth or Downside, Aitken might well become another "Seedling". I wish him well.



Aitken: when in Rome?

● HERE, high in *Diary Towers*, we have been trying to remember the last time that a Prime Minister used Chequers to give such a party-political TV interview. We assumed, naively, that the PM's country residence was intended for conducting matters of state and for



relaxation. John Major gave such interviews in his Huntingdon lounge (and believe me, it was a lounge). I just hope that Mr Blair cleared the broadcast with the Chequers trustees. Otherwise they might take a dim view.

Cameras roll

WHEN he peels off his polyester hipsters after the tour with the geriatric Rollers, Mick Jagger will turn his raddled head to more lyrical lyrics. His firm, Jagged Films, plans a flick about Dylan Thomas. *The Map of Love* will focus on the poet's relationship with his wife, Caitlin, best described as boisterous. The script will also cover Thomas's notorious drinking bouts, not least his final plunge in New York in 1953, after which he

lapsed into a coma and died. Shooting will start in Wales next spring, while the director Christopher Monger chooses his cast. The leathery Jagger could make a good Welsh shepherd.

● HOW to sell William Hague? This is the tricky question Frank magazine has set advertising agencies, including once so loyal Saatchi & Saatchi. Some suggestions were unhelpful. One has a snap of Hague above the slogan "the new Con. man". A hopeful effort states: "Unemployed single black lesbian mother? Come home to the New Conservatives." A design by Harrari Page will not appear: "It involved naked bodies and the heads of Hague and Ffion Jenkins." Sounds a winner.

Foot sloggling

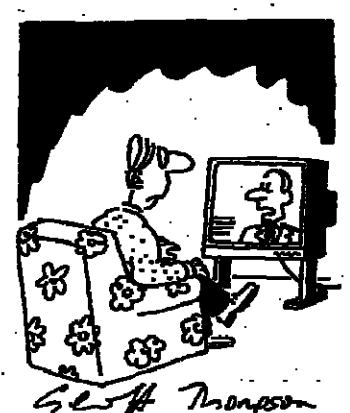
UNCOMFORTABLE with the capital and its new Labour mores, Michael Foot has thrown a quiet party to celebrate publication of his tribute to his hero, Nye Bevan. Tredegar, where the old Labour heart still beats in Bevan's South Wales constituency, has been in carnival mood on the centenary of Bevan's birth. "We've even had a laser spectacle," says Lew Smith, now MP there. Not that this could

entice Tony Blair. Says Lew: "He doesn't often call me these days."

● A CONVIVIAL haunt, Pratt's. The club has installed a chair lift to help members from the basement. Members are relieved. Macmillan often had to be helped from there. A geographical note: the basement is home to the bar.

Motor mouth

THAT car junkie Lord Montagu of Beaulieu discloses that he acquired



"Now, a party political apology by the Labour Party"

his first motor, a modest Hillman Minx, in a suspect manner. "It was a fiddle," he tells me. "It was 1947 and I was serving in Palestine. It was virtually impossible to buy a car on the home market. I said it was for export." He was believed, so he had his 21st birthday present. Now he favours models with more muscle: he wants a supercharged Daimler Super V8.

● EATING with Jeffrey Bernard was no more salubrious than drinking with him. "When entertained in Wheeler's by Francis Bacon, he fell asleep with his head in a plate of Dover sole," Esquire informs us. "As he woke for coffee other diners recall his piteous cry of 'Oh Christ, I've gone blind,' with tartare sauce covering his specs."

On the Social

THE MARCHIONESS of Milford Haven is on a shortlist having applied to become social editor of *Harpers & Queen* to replace Lady Celestria Noel. Before she married Milford Haven earlier this year, the marchioness, a mother-of-three, began her journalistic career with articles about the hardship of being too beautiful. The new job — attending parties, frating with dukes, looking pretty, that sort of



Heading for Harpers?

thing — will enable her to put her close chums, such as the Duchess of York, back into the social pages. The salary might be welcomed by her husband, who sold his share in the family seat, Moyne Park, after life began to grow rather expensive a few years back.

JASPER GERARD



POISONED CHALICE

A well-intentioned law that could shackle the press

The imminent Bill to toughen the law on data protection, which the Government is required under European Union law to put on the statute book before next October, will appear to most people as a well-intentioned measure. The aim is to protect individuals' privacy by restricting the uses, including sale to third parties, to which companies and other bodies can put personal data banks. Data mines, as they are known in the trade, can be a menace. People object with reason when the paying of a utility bill results in a barrage of unsolicited leaflets peddling unrelated products and services, or when one gift to a charity leads to hundreds of envelopes from others. More seriously, people worry that information about them can be circulated without their consent to credit agencies or potential employers. But this legislation has a grave defect: unless its drafting is changed, it would inhibit huge areas of normal journalistic activity and bring a blanket law of press censorship.

The existing 1984 law already places some restrictions on data users who must be registered, operate within the terms of their registration and observe eight principles designed to protect personal data from abuse. It can be an offence, for example, to use their databases to market new businesses — which has already created problems for expanding companies. The 1995 EU Data Protection Directive of 1995 — which Britain is bound to implement although it voted against it — not only makes these restrictions much tougher: it gives "data subjects", those about whom information is held, explicit rights of access and control.

With exceptions for such areas as national security, criminal investigations or taxation, government and other data users will have to obtain the individual's "unambiguous" consent to hold or use paper or computer records on them. Where people have not themselves supplied the information, they must be told of its existence and will then have the right to see, correct or block its disclosure or use. There is a total ban on collecting "special categories" of information such as somebody's political or religious beliefs, ethnic origins or sex life, unless the person concerned has given "explicit consent".

All this may sound totally unobjectionable. But *The Times* is by no means engaged in special pleading when it cautions against the law of unintended consequences. Like the law of privacy which the Government has rightly rejected, these rights could easily be abused by those with money and lawyers and something to hide to silence all press investigation of their activities.

Consider what this law would mean in practice. Under Article 7, reporters would have to tell somebody that he was being in-

vestigated — and obtain his consent to collecting the facts. Under Articles 10 and 11, they would be obliged to notify the person of his right to see what information they held: such a right would betray the confidentiality of sources, including whistle-blowers. And under Article 14, that person could obtain a legal injunction blocking its publication. This would amount to prior censorship.

It is not only investigative journalism that would become a legal minefield. A generally uncontroversial media service, the compiling of obituaries, could fall foul of the clause prohibiting the collection of information on opinions, beliefs and origins. And although EU governments are allowed under Article 9 to make exemptions to the law for journalism or literature, this is only so far as they consider "necessary to reconcile the right to privacy with the rules governing freedom of expression". Through the EU side-door, this would usher in the privacy law which the Blair Government has rightly rejected.

The first and laudable instinct of Lord Williams of Mostyn, the Home Office minister responsible, was to give the media a general exemption. But following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, a Government fearful of being seen to be soft on the press backtracked. Home Office officials are now drafting exemptions for each article. It is imperative that exemptions be framed in the broadest of terms, that they entrench in all cases a public interest defence, and that they remove all possibility of pre-publication "gagging" injunctions.

But even then, anything short of a blanket exemption can offer no more than the freedom to "publish and be damned", with the prospect of court battles to determine the admissibility, case by case, of a public interest defence. A better method would be that of Finland, which exempts the media under Article 9 from all restrictions on the unpublished material they hold on file. To prevent this data ending up in the wrong hands, the media must satisfy the data protection ombudsman that their internal data protection systems are secure. But because the need to protect sources is recognised, they do not have to disclose what information they store.

As with privacy legislation, the Government's first thoughts were its best. Tony Blair should weigh carefully the fear of Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, that this law "would destroy journalism" in this country. A blanket exemption might not be popular, but only because its purpose would not be well understood. Mr Blair should reflect that the alternative could be worse than unpopular. This Government's principled commitment to freedom of information is here subjected to a critical test.

SORRY NOW

Blair and Labour need to learn the right lessons

A honeymoon of such length and intensity was bound to end in acrimony. Tony Blair was right to face the cameras at Chequers yesterday and wise to start with an apology. His appearance was a recognition of the damage that the Ecclestone affair had done to his Government. He noted that, in the wider scheme of things, the future of Formula One was a modest issue. That is true but it does not make it irrelevant. The Profumo affair, Westlands and "cash for questions" were not at the centre of British public policy either. They all had an impact on the Prime Minister associated with them.

However, Mr Blair's apology was less than absolute. Indeed at times — when he declared himself "furious", "hurt" and "upset" — he appeared to demand contrition from others in return. The Prime Minister declined to say sorry for either the decision to take the money or the process that led to it. On the former, he is on reasonable ground, on the latter he is far less certain.

The meeting with Mr Ecclestone at Downing Street was inevitably going to raise eyebrows. This is not because the new ethical climate makes it impossible for major donors to meet ministers. If the existence and scale of Mr Ecclestone's support had been public knowledge, then far less concern would have been forthcoming.

The Prime Minister had few qualms in disowning his party's presentational failures. He conceded that the manner in which information had "dribbled out" had

spawned unnecessary suspicion. It is, though, only part of the story. The various strands of this saga have not only been released slowly and with reluctance but the content was incomplete and at times contradictory. This continues to be true despite the Prime Minister's efforts.

The means by which British politics is financed has certainly caused much concern over the past decade. In his interview yesterday and on our pages opposite, Mr Blair makes plain his preference for a radical overhaul of the system. Much of what he outlines will strike many people as reasonable. Sir Patrick Neill, though, is right to stress the importance of all-party agreements. An exclusive regime of state funding has attracted relatively little enthusiasm. A fixed limit on individual donations may prove difficult to administer. Some sort of overall ceiling on what parties may spend in the course of the election campaign might emerge as the option worth exploration.

Mr Blair has decided to lead from the front in the effort to put the Ecclestone affair behind him. If no further revelations surface soon, then he may succeed in doing so. It is important that the Prime Minister learns the appropriate lessons from this drama. These should centre on really fundamental issues about the way Downing Street interacts with the rest of Whitehall. They are not primarily about an unduly cynical press, a poor public relations strategy, or the precise structure of current party funding practice.

BUTLER POWER

Paul Burrell is the best man to select the Diana memorial

No man is a hero to his valet. No, nor no princess either a heroine to her butler. But butlers and valets are the unsung and offstage heroes. That is their function. They are among the select few to be admitted to the private reality behind the public masks of ceremony and razzmatazz. So the appointment of Paul Burrell to serve on the Diana Memorial Committee is a rare instance of life imitating art. For once the butler is being consulted officially rather than behind the scenes. Jeeves would have approved.

For ten years Mr Burrell was the butler and confidant of the late Princess of Wales. She described him as her rock, and said, for once with more realism than romance: "He is the only man I can trust." He was the only outsider, not a member of her family, to attend her burial at Althorp. In recognition of his devotion, last week he was invested with the Royal Victorian Medal. Now he has been appointed to the committee of ten to

choose a permanent memorial for the Princess. Announcing that the committee was being set up, Tony Blair said that it would look at ways of "taking forward some of the causes she held dear".

But this is a problematic assignment. The committee will work with the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, which has received millions of pounds. In addition, the Government is going to hand over more than £2.5 million in VAT receipts earned from Elton John's top of all pops *Candle in the Wind* record. Ministers have received many thousands of letters suggesting how Diana should be commemorated. So whatever is decided is bound to disappoint many and be controversial to most.

In these circumstances of high emotion above stairs, the Government is following wise precedents of fact, folklore and fiction. When in doubt, consult the butler as the discreet insider who really knows.

Ecclestone refund and party sleaze

From Mr John Stott

Sir, Mr Bernie Ecclestone tells us, in his letter of November 14, that he made a donation to the Labour Party because he believed "Mr Blair to be a person of exceptional ability who, if free to act, would do an outstanding job for our country".

Surely he now sees that he is entitled to his money back. Every last penny.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. STOTT,
Black House, Copenhall, Stafford.
jcs@blackhouse.demon.co.uk
November 14.

From Mr John Warne

Sir, Would Mr Bernie Ecclestone and Mr Max Mosley have had the privilege of putting their case for special treatment personally to the Prime Minister on October 16 if he had not given the Labour Party £1 million or so earlier this year?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WARNE,
16 Carlton Mews,
Wells, Somerset.
November 14.

From Mr Howard Leigh

Sir, The disclosure by Bernie Ecclestone of an annual personal tax bill of £27 million implies an income of some £68 million. Presumably all or most of that is deemed to be essentially from Formula One racing.

The accounts of his Formula One Promotions and Administration Ltd shows directors' remuneration of some £55 million. In Mr Ecclestone's special pleadings to the Prime Minister one would hope the point was made to him that the industry could survive happily if such huge sums were not extracted for personal benefit.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD LEIGH
(Director),
Cavendish Corporate Finance Ltd,
12 Cavendish Place, W1.
November 14.

From Mr Denis Meehan

Sir, Your leader, "Disillusion day" (November 14), strikes me as grossly unfair. The Labour Party in opposition voluntarily adopted a procedure of disclosing the names of individuals and companies donating sums in excess of £5,000, a procedure which it carried over into government. This in itself was a powerful disincentive to corruption and influence-peddling.

The Conservative Party, by contrast, remains secretive about donors. To suggest equivalence of secrecy and sleaze between the two parties is simply not credible.

Yours sincerely,
DENIS MEEHAN,
238 Upper Richmond Road, SW15.
November 14.

From Mr John Urwin

Sir, By offering to return Bernie Ecclestone's donation the Labour Party has shown that it will put the country's exports and highly skilled engineering jobs ahead of party funding.

Giving Formula One time to find alternative sponsors shows that the party has a grasp of reality lamentably lacking amongst the chattering classes, who would be advised to move on to a more interesting story.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN URWIN (engineer),
1 Newlands Close,
Hitchin, Hertfordshire.
hy26@btinternet.com
November 14.

From Mr Roger Hicks

Sir, I, too, feel I have fared well under the current Government. I wonder whether Sir Patrick Neill would instruct the Treasury to repay to me the taxes I have contributed since the election, in order to avoid any allegations of sleaze.

Yours etc,
ROGER HICKS,
68 Deer Park Drive,
Arnold, Nottingham.
November 14.

From Mr Hugh Long

Sir, I suggest a new rival to the euro: the high-denomination Bernie, with its unique distinction of being refundable.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH LONG,
67 Dartmouth Park Road, NWS.
November 15.

From Mr Kenneth Morgan

Sir, When the International Federation of Journalists Congress met in Istanbul in 1972 the first four speakers on press freedom, all Turkish, predictably and prudently relied heavily on Kemal Ataturk for inspiration and quotation (letters, November 10, 13).

Speaking fifth, on the "when in Rome" principle, I managed to dredge up and drag in one Ataturk sentiment. The sixth speaker, the president of the American Newspaper Guild, Charles A. Perlik III, began briskly, to warm applause: "As that great democrat and lover of liberty Thomas Ataturk Jefferson once said..."

Yours etc,
KENNETH MORGAN
(General secretary, National Union of Journalists, 1970-77),
151 Overhill Road, Dulwich, SE22.
November 14.

From Mrs Mary Beard

Sir, My father, who was for many years an engineer and administrator with the South Indian railway, used to recount with great admiration the story of a local magistrate who had an enviable reputation for fair-mindedness. When asked how he had achieved this, the magistrate is said to have replied:

I always accepted the bribes offered from both sides, then I would consider the case on its merits and return the bribe to the side which I found against.

Yours faithfully,
MARY BEARD,
Dromard House,
Kesh, Co Fermanagh.
November 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Nolan or Downey: whose rules apply to MPs' conduct?

From Professor Anthony King

Sir, The House of Commons will be debating on Monday the Standards and Privileges Committee's report on the Neil Hamilton affair. As a member of the former Nolan committee I must say there seems to be considerable confusion about the original Nolan recommendations and the procedure subsequently adopted by the House committee.

The Nolan committee's report in 1995 envisaged a three-stage process when accusations of misconduct were brought against MPs. The independent Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards would first investigate and decide whether there was a case to answer. If he concluded there was, it would be heard by a special sub-committee of the Standards and Privileges Committee. If the sub-committee found against the member, he or she could appeal to the full committee (and ultimately to the House).

No one would be on trial; but the rough analogy the Nolan committee had in mind was Crown Prosecution Service, court of first instance, appeal court.

The Commons in 1995 adopted the broad Nolan approach, but the Standards and Privileges Committee in the last Parliament decided against setting up a special sub-committee. Instead, in the case of Mr Hamilton

and the 24 other MPs, it decided that the Parliamentary Commissioner should function, on the rough judicial analogy, as both investigating magistrate and court of first instance.

Sir Gordon Downey's terms of reference were precise. He was asked to inquire into allegations of misconduct against Mr Hamilton and others "with a view to establishing whether there had been any breach of House of Commons rules, in the letter or in the spirit". The House committee agreed in detail the procedures Sir Gordon was to follow.

Sir Gordon subsequently concluded that there had indeed been a breach of the rules. So far as I can make out, he did not exceed the brief given to him by the committee in the old House and has not, at any rate publicly, been accused of so doing: nor is it suggested that there was any material defect in the procedure he followed.

Given what has happened since, it seems to me, speaking only for myself, not for the members of what is now the Neil committee, that the House and the Standards and Privileges Committee need to decide how they want to operate in future. They can either revert to the procedures originally envisaged by Nolan (and be prepared on occasion to conduct lengthy and detailed investigations), or they can regularise the position they have adopted in the Hamilton

case and others, that the Parliamentary Commissioner conducts a detailed investigation and comes to firm conclusions.

In the latter case, the committee would presumably exercise a broadly "judicial review" function and reject the Parliamentary Commissioner's report only if his procedures had been seriously flawed or his findings manifestly unsafe and unsatisfactory.

The committee in the Hamilton case has, in effect, followed the latter of the two procedures. It has clearly concluded that Sir Gordon Downey's procedures were not seriously flawed and his findings not unsafe and unsatisfactory. But for some reason it has been reluctant to say in so many words that it has performed this kind of judicial review function — an omission that leaves it and the commissioner in an ambiguous and unsatisfactory position.

Certainly the committee seems to hold that view. As it says in its report, it now needs "to assess its own role in relation to inquiries conducted by the commissioner". In my view, it should undertake that assessment as a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY KING,
The Mill House, Middle Green,
Wakes Colne, Colchester, Essex.
November 14.

Action on climate change is essential

From the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions

Sir, I find it amazing that Bronwen Maddox ("Europe should learn from US stance on tackling pollution", *Business*, November 13) questions the need for action on climate change. Governments across the world, including President Clinton's Administration, accept that it is potentially one of the most serious global problems we face. I could take issue with many of the other points which Ms Maddox raises. Let me restrict myself to three.

First, as was clear from my press briefing after I met Vice-President Gore in Washington last week, the UK has not "bartered" the US position on climate change. Indeed, I welcomed the President's proposal and recognised the difficult domestic political situation that he and the Vice-President face.

At the same time I made clear that we and our European colleagues would like to see more from the US. In particular, if we want the poor developing countries to play a bigger role in the way that the US Congress is pressing for the rich developed countries must do better than simply delay by 10 years the promises we made at Rio.

Second, action on climate change need not harm economic growth. President Clinton has rightly pointed to the job opportunities that his proposed measures will create in the United States. Action in Britain will lead to a better transport system, better insulated homes, healthier cities

and a more energy efficient industry.

Third, I agree that flexible mechanisms, which give credit for action by developed countries in developing countries, can play a useful part. But, as President Clinton himself again recognises, domestic action is also necessary. At present, the average American is responsible for 25 times more emissions than the average Indian. That gap is not sustainable in the long term if globalisation is to lead to a better and fairer world for all.

Climate change cannot be dealt with, as Ms Maddox suggests, simply by "waiting and seeing" the harmful effects of global warming and "building walls round Bangladesh". It threatens all of us with future droughts, floods and crop losses that have the potential for massive human and financial misery.

That is why the UK Government, together with our European colleagues, is working so hard for constructive agreement at Kyoto next month. That is why I am about to embark on a second major foreign tour to prepare the ground for the conference. The strong political will shown by developed countries at the preparatory meeting I chaired in Tokyo last week encourages me to think that agreement can be reached. The world needs such an agreement, and it will be even more important for our children than it will be for us.

Contacts with Iraq

From the Director-General of the International School of Geneva

Sir, If the British Government still has a policy towards Iraq I hope those who are responsible for it will have read Simon Jenkins's excellent article of November 12, "Exploding the myth" (letters, November 14).

I have seen the effects in Baghdad of economic sanctions and of so-called clinical strikes. Jenkins is right to conclude that neither can be justified on moral or pragmatic grounds.

His "contact strategy" offers a radical alternative, which is why this school continues to maintain contact, despite all the logistical difficulties, with Baghdad International School, set up by the United Nations in the early Eighties.

It is a pity that a new Foreign Secretary has failed to reflect on the psychology of isolation and missed the opportunity to rethink a discredited policy that has achieved exactly the opposite effect of that intended.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WALKER,
Director-General,
The International School of Geneva,
62 route de Chêne,
1208 Geneva,
November 14.

I bank, therefore...

From Mr Michael Pollard

Sir, Mrs Irene Draper (letter, November 5; see also letters, November 8) should follow the example of a dear family friend (now long departed) who, on reaching a certain age, received a letter requiring "proof of existence" from her insurance company.

Her response was that she had no intention of wasting people's time asking for letters proving her continued existence, but if they felt her letter was insufficient proof and decided to stop paying her annuity she would have pleasure in meeting them in court over the matter.

She had no further problem.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL POLLARD,
2 Victoria Park Road, Exeter, Devon.
November 8.

From Mr Leonard Harrington

Sir, Some years ago, when living abroad, a friend had his car stolen. When the insurance company asked could he prove the vehicle was stolen he sent them a photograph of his empty garage.

Yours faithfully,
LEONARD HARRINGTON,
38 Lovelace Road, Surbiton, Surrey.
November 15.

From Mr W. D. Cornie

Sir, It is for Mrs Draper's bankers to furnish proof of her existence. After all, it is they who have her money.

Yours faithfully,
W. D. CORNIE,
Dix's, Black Hill,
Lindfield, West Sussex.

Coping with Christmas

From Mr R. F. Mountjoy

Sir, Surely the appropriate date for a day-long seminar for people who can't cope with Christmas ("Cool Yule tips", in brief, November 12) is December 25.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD MOUNTJOY,
21 Whittingham Gardens,
Brighton, East Sussex.
November 12.

Seeing stars

From Mr R. W. Mellor, FENG

Sir, Flag topsy-turvy (letter, November 14)? Today's topical tip: toggle to the top.

R. W. MELLOR,
The Red House, West Hanningfield,
Chelmsford, Essex.
November 15.

Business letters, page 50
Sport letters, page 39

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

OBITUARIES

Georges Marchais, Secretary-General of the French Communist Party, 1972-94, died yesterday aged 77. He was born on June 7, 1920.

Georges Marchais had the unenviable fate of leading the French Communists during a period of steady decline in their popular support. In his efforts to combat the growing ascendancy of the Socialists, he conducted policy through a series of U-turns which bewildered his own rank-and-file and drew derision from his critics. First, in 1972, he formed an alliance with the Socialist Party (PS), but then broke with it in 1977-78 and moved the Communist Party (PCF) back into isolation.

When the Socialists won power in 1981, he accepted PCF participation in their Government while surreptitiously still working to undermine them; then in 1984 he pulled the party out of the Government. When Mikhail Gorbachev took power in Moscow, Marchais paid lip-service to perestroika but did nothing to apply it within PCF ranks. Whereas in the 1970s he had sometimes appeared as a "liberal" wishing to democratise the party, he later stuck to a hard conservative position and rejected all attempts at reform. This bluff proletarian showed in public an almost comical pugnacity, which helped to make him into a national television star. But though a wily political opera-

tor, he lacked either intellectual gifts or any real statesman-like vision.

Marchais was born in Normandy, at La Houque near Falaise; his father was a quarryman and his mother from a Roman Catholic peasant family. He did poorly at school, where he is said to have developed an inferiority complex that was to mark him for life. His early adult years today remain cloaked in mystery. He certainly never joined the Resistance, and in 1942 he went to work as an aircraft mechanic at a Messerschmidt plant near Augsburg. There is some evidence that he went voluntarily — far from being deported, as was later claimed — and his political enemies made much of this distinctly unheroic war record.

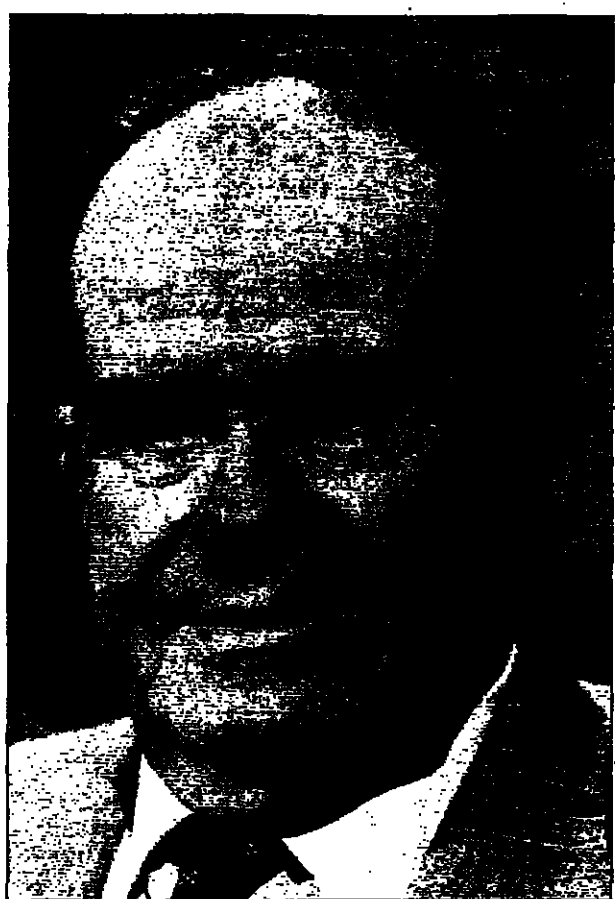
He did not join the PCF until the relatively late age of 27. Soon he was active in the Communist-led trade union, CGT. Here he was spotted by Maurice Thorez, the PCF leader, who trained him and put him into the party apparatus, where he took to bureaucracy as a duck to water. He rose rapidly, becoming Organising Secretary in 1961. And when in 1969 the Secretary-General, Waldeck Rochet, fell seriously ill, Marchais effectively took charge of the party.

It was under the influence of two senior colleagues, Jean Kautsky and Charles Fiterman, that in 1972 he opted for the path of liberalising the PCF's image, of loosening its allegiance to Moscow and moving it closer to the PS. So he signed the Joint Pro-

gramme of alliance with the then still fragile PS, believing that the PCF could safely dominate it. He pledged a new, fully democratic party that would accept the principle of alternation of power. He formed close links with the Italian Communist leader Enrico Berlinguer, thus launching the vogue for "Euro-Communism" separate from Moscow. He grew openly critical of the Soviet Union on such issues as human rights, and in 1976 presided over a PCF Congress that jettisoned the key Marxist concept of the "dictatorship of the proletariat".

The Joint Programme worked smoothly for a while, until the Communists realised that it was benefiting the Socialists more than themselves. So in 1977, urged on by the Stalinists in his ranks, Marchais made the boldest of his U-turns: he virtually broke off the alliance. His motives? Above all he was afraid of the PCF entering a Government of the Left as the weaker partner, and of its being obliged to acquiesce in "social democratic" policies. The result of the breach was that the Left lost the 1978 elections, which hitherto it had seemed set to win.

This caused dismay among those of the party rank-and-file who felt that their leaders had robbed them of victory. Some "dissident" liberals resigned in disgust, or they were pushed out by Marchais, who now led the party firmly back into its "ghetto" of domestic isolation and rebuilt his bridges with the Soviet Union. On a visit to



Moscow in January 1980 he publicly backed the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. At home, he repeatedly urged on the Socialists under Mitterrand, accusing them of shifting to the right.

He pursued this theme as PCF candidate in the presidential election campaign of April

1981. But it rebounded against him. He polled a mere 15.4 per cent, much the lowest Communist score since the war — a clear sign that his erratic tactics were alienating part of his own electorate.

After Mitterrand formed his Socialist Government, Marchais and his colleagues felt that they had little choice but to accept his offer of PCF posts in it. But they remained warily critical partners and in 1984 they withdrew from it, angered by Mitterrand's policy shifts towards the centre. Marchais declared that he had made a mistake in ever trusting the Socialists.

After this he held the party to a hard Stalinist line, and managed to thwart all efforts by Charles Fiterman, Pierre Juquin and other reformers to introduce a more open, modern and democratic structure, on the Italian Communist model. The result was a continued erosion of PCF fortunes: in the 1988 general election it polled only 11 per cent, and by 1993 its support had fallen below 10 per cent.

For this Marchais was continually criticised within his own ranks, and repeated attempts were made to oust him, but they failed.

When communism was overthrown in Eastern Europe in 1989-90, Marchais tried artfully to parade as a champion of reform: "I feel very close to Gorbachev," he said in January 1990, and he claimed that he had been "duped" by the hardline Communist leaders in the East. But his failure to act on these lessons lost him yet more credibility. His political cynicism had never inspired confidence now it did so less than ever.

And yet, amazingly, in December 1990 he was unanimously re-elected party leader. He had managed to surround himself with loyal apparatchiks, his grip on the party

machine was tight, and he was always an astute manipulator. This enabled him to overcome even stiff dissent. He himself had no clear ideology, save an instinct for his own survival, which he equated with that of the party. He was, it is true, a staunch French patriot, with nationalistic views on such matters as defence. But he saw no incompatibility between this and his belief that the PCF, domestically isolated, had need of the firm support of Moscow.

After 1981 he was seemingly reconciled to the view that the PCF's own electoral decline was irreversible, that power would not come via the ballot-box, and that therefore the best strategy was to consolidate a secure, if narrow, working-class base and to wait for eventual victory via the steady global expansion of the Soviet Union and the slow but sure death of capitalism.

Marchais' personality did not make him ideally suited to leading the PCF during this difficult period. In public he had a show-off, histrionic manner, especially in TV debates, where he would fly into feigned rages and parade brazen untruths. This provocative spectacle won him high TV ratings — higher even than soccer matches. But it also made him faintly ridiculous. With his square jaw, bushy eyebrows and staring eyes, he had the air of a man with a knife between his teeth.

But behind this ebullient facade he was really a timid individual, frequently feeling under threat and thus reacting

aggressively. He feared and disliked intellectuals; unlike previous PCF leaders such as Thorez, he was a philistine, ill at ease with ideas. Certainly he could identify with his own working class, its travails and aspirations; but he lacked the ability to communicate with the educated middle classes, and this proved a limitation.

Marchais, for all his faults, was by no means the frigid bureaucrat he was jovial among his cronies, kind to his true friends, and capable of generous impulse and sincere emotion, to the point of sentimentality — sometimes he would weep in public. He adored jolly crowds and blaring music, beer and wine festivals, and his pleasures and interests were those of the true French working man — football and la chasse, comic strips and popular love-songs.

In an ordinary job, he would probably have proved a likeable, respected, easygoing comrade. But the ruthless world of higher party politics brought out the worst in him. He will go into history as one of the less effective of Europe's postwar left-wing leaders. He stepped down as leader of the PCF in January 1994, handing over to Robert Hue, who has tried to steer a more modern and moderate course.

Georges Marchais was twice married. He had three daughters by his first wife, Paulette Noettinger, whom he married in 1941 and from whom he was divorced, and a son by his second, Liliane Grelot, whom he married in 1977.

LADY TRYON

Lady Tryon, society hostess and dress designer, died from septicaemia in hospital in London on November 15 aged 49. She was born in Melbourne on January 3, 1948.

A COLOURFUL ornament to English society for more than two decades, Dale "Kanga" Tryon was a woman of great spirit and determination. She needed — and showed — those qualities in extra measure in the last years of her life, as a succession of illnesses and misfortunes turned her from a darling of the gossip columns into an object of almost macabre fascination. Her private battles of the 1990s — first with recurrence of the spinal bifida she had suffered as a child; then with uterine cancer; then with paralysis after a fall — were all bravely fought in the full glare of media attention.

The public interest was explained by her role as a longstanding friend and confidante of the Prince of Wales, who was widely and frequently quoted as having called her "the only woman who really understands me". It was he who gave her the nickname Kanga — a name which stuck and which was later to provide the label for her dress collection — and after her marriage to Lord Tryon, one of his oldest friends, he became the godfather to their first son.

An accomplished hostess, Lady Tryon managed for many years to combine a hectic social life in London and Wiltshire with a career as a fashion designer and a mother of four. She was also active on the charity circuit, serving for a time as vice-chairman of the mental health charity SANE; Prince Charles once played in a polo match to help her to raise funds.

Dale Elizabeth Harper, as she was before her marriage, was born with a mild form of spinal bifida and was unable to walk until she was nine. She spent three years in hospital, and her father, a wealthy Australian publisher, built a special bed for her so that she could be wheeled around.

Resolutely courageous even from an early age, by the time

she was ten she had thrown away her canisters and crutches and was walking unaided — even riding horses. She was, however, to suffer from back pain all her life, and in later years would have a number of operations to rebuild her spine.

She first met Prince Charles at a teenage dance in Melbourne, while he was a temporary pupil at the Geelong Grammar School in 1966. She was not to meet him again until she came to England to be "finished" in the early 1970s. She worked for a time in London as a PR for the Qantas airline and as an assistant at *Woman's Weekly* magazine.

While in London, she was introduced to one of Prince Charles's friends, Anthony Tryon. A merchant banker almost ten years her senior, son of the Keeper of the Privy Purse and himself a former page of honour to the Queen, he was known by his friends as "Lord Ummum" for the way he would finish his sentences. When Dale Harper returned to Australia, he followed and asked for her hand.

They were married in 1973 at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace. Their first child, a daughter, was born the year after their marriage. A son, whose godfather was the Prince of Wales, followed two years later. Twins were born at the end of the decade.

The family retained a base in London, but the children were brought up in a fairly modest house on the 2,000-acre Tryon estate at Great Durnford in Wiltshire. Later, thanks in no small part to Lady Tryon's enterprise, they were able to move back into the ancestral home, a large Queen Anne manor house which had to be let out as a girls' school.

Lord Tryon worked for the merchant bank Lazards. In the early 1980s Lady Tryon, not content with the role of weekend wife in the country, used £2,000 of her savings to open a London dress shop, which she called Kanga, in Beauchamp Place, off Knightsbridge. Some of the dresses she stocked — one size, non-crushable, drip-dry, flouncy creations — were inspired by her own busy life-



style, which involved frequent flights to visit her family in Australia. Selling what Lady Tryon called "outfits for women with real figures, not six-foot models", the shop was a success, and in 1985 its own design label was launched, also called Kanga.

What had started as a hobby turned into a thriving international business, with an annual turnover of more

than £1 million. Despite often excruciating back pain, Lady Tryon found herself travelling constantly between Hong Kong and Italy and New York, visiting other branches of her company.

She also developed a lucrative sideline, buying, converting and selling London property. Then, after her husband had lost his job as a director of Lazards, she be-

came the chief financial support of her family.

Lady Tryon remained close to Prince Charles throughout his bachelor days, and was even said to have vetted his girlfriends, assessing their suitability as potential royal brides. A shared passion for fly-fishing continued to provide a link after the Prince's marriage in 1981, and the Princess of Wales was among Lady Tryon's fashionable customers.

Lady Tryon, not normally reticent, remained notably loyal and discreet when the strains in the royal marriage began to become known. There were those, however, who thought that she resented the prominence of Camilla Parker Bowles in Prince Charles's life, particularly after his divorce, and who accused her of making too much of her own closeness to the Prince, which belonged largely to the past.

By then, however, she had more serious troubles than gossip to contend with. In 1992 she went through several grueling operations to rebuild the top of her spine with cow bones. Shortly afterwards it was discovered that she had uterine cancer which had spread to her kidneys. She fought courageously and was eventually given the all-clear.

In 1996, however, she was admitted to Farm Place, a private rehabilitation clinic near Dorchester, apparently to recuperate from exhaustion and depression. There she suffered a fall from an upper window which left her with a broken back and fractured skull; she was subsequently confined to a wheelchair.

In June of this year she was detained for 28 days under the Mental Health Act and in July Lord Tryon applied for a High Court order banning her from the family estate. In September she was granted a decree nisi. The decree absolute hearing had been deferred at the time of Lady Tryon's death, which came after a skin graft operation, reportedly to repair bed sores sustained during a recent bout of alternative therapy in India.

Lord Tryon survives her with their two sons and two daughters.

DICK HALL

Richard Hall, journalist, died on November 14 aged 72. He was born on July 22, 1925.

IN THE days when *The Observer*, under its Editor David Astor, led the world in its coverage of foreign affairs, Dick Hall was one of its best correspondents. His territory was Africa, and he reported on it with knowledge, insight and passion.

A close friend of Kenneth Kaunda in Zambia, he launched a newspaper there in the late 1950s, and was the first Editor of the *Times of Zambia* after independence. He covered the troublespots of Africa, and prided himself on a number of notable scoops. He reported the vicious colonial war in the Congo in the early 1960s, and was there when Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary-General of the United Nations, was killed in an air crash in 1961. He was a passionate protagonist of the Biafrans, and was the last correspondent to leave before their flight for independence was lost. He drew on these experiences and his unbeatable network of contacts to write several books, and to launch an influential newsletter, *Africa Analysis*.

Richard Hall was born in Margate, where his father made a shaky living running boat-trips for holidaymakers before emigrating to Australia when the boy was three, and shortly afterwards abandoning both him and his mother. Hall's early years were spent on Bondi Beach, but when he was eight he and his mother, a strong and resourceful woman, returned to England.

Educated at Hastings Grammar School, he began his career on the *Evening Argus* in Sussex where he earned 7s 6d a week with 2s 6d bicycle allowance. He joined the Navy and did war service as a decoder in the Mediterranean, damaging his eyesight in the process. It was during this time that he met his first wife Barbara Taylor, a Wren from Derbyshire, also a decoder.

After leaving the Navy he went up to Keble College, Oxford, where among his friends were Kenneth Tynan



and Anthony Sampson. Later he joined the *Daily Mail*, where he worked with Derek Ingram, but found domestic reporting restricting.

Having a strong entrepreneurial streak, and a spirit of adventure, he went out to Northern Rhodesia in 1955, where he ran some house magazines for the copper mines, before launching the *Central African Mail*, with help from David Astor who supplied a printing press. The paper was taken over after independence, but Hall, who by now was friendly with Kenneth Kaunda, became the Editor of the *Times of Zambia*. It was there that he came into contact with Tiny Rowland, who owned the paper.

In 1957 political pressures forced him to leave Zambia, and he returned to Britain to work for *The Observer*, where he stayed for 19 years as a foreign correspondent, covering not only African but Commonwealth news with distinction and courage. Hall had always asserted that during his time in Zambia Rowland had never interfered with

his editorial independence, so when he launched his controversial bid for ownership of *The Observer*, Hall supported him. He may have hoped to be editor, but the job was retained by Donald Trefford. Rowland may have found Hall's obstinate sense of independence a barrier.

Gradually, Hall began to believe that Rowland was not, after all, the ideal proprietor, and in 1966 he left to found *Africa Analysis*, which combines business and political expertise, and has gone on to become a great commercial success. He wrote several books, including a controversial account of his friendship with Rowland: *Lovers on the Nile*, and, last year, *Empires of the Monsoon*, a history of the Indian Ocean.

After his first marriage ended in divorce, he married again, to Carol Cantley, a former *Observer* journalist. They lived near Oxford, where Hall enjoyed gardening, reading poetry and listening to music.

He leaves his widow and the five sons of his first marriage.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Richard Bending, Vicar, Buckden (Ry); to be also Priest-in-Charge, Hall Weston (same diocese).

The Rev Elizabeth Boughton, formerly Chaplain, St Catherine's School, Bramley (Guildford); to be NSM Assistant Curate, Fitcham St Mary (same diocese).

The Rev Adele Chettle, with permission to officiate (Hereford); to be NSM Curate, Burghill and Stretton Sugwas (same diocese).

The Rev Richard Cooper, Vicar, Aldborough w Boroughbridge and Roscliffe (Ripon); to be also Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral.

The Rev Andrew Duff, Team Vicar, Pritwell St Andrew, Bracknell Team (Oxford); to be Chaplain to the Forces.

The Rev Philip Dykes, formerly Curate-in-Charge, Bishop Andrew's St Helier (Winchester); to be Team Vicar, Camberley St Paul (Guildford).

The Rev Brian Gillett, formerly Rector, Kingsmead w Clapham; Eaton Bishop, Allensmore and Thrupton (Hereford); to be Vicar.

Baltonborough w Butleigh and West Bradley (Bath & Wells).

The Rev Peter Haddleton, Team Vicar, Hereford South Wye Team (Hereford); to be Team Rector, same benefice.

The Rev Robin Harvey, Rector, East Harptree w West Harptree and Hinton Blewett (Bath & Wells); to be Chaplain, University of Surrey (Guildford).

The Rev Peter Howell-Jones, Assistant Curate, Walsall St Matthew (Lichfield); to be Vicar, Boldmere St Michael (Birmingham).

The Rev David Izzard, Curate, East Bristol (Bristol); to be Vicar, Sea Mills St Edyth (same diocese).

The Rev Simon Lloyd, with permission to officiate (Birmingham); to be Team Vicar, Solihull with special responsibility for Solihull St Michael (Birmingham).

The Rev Sheila Nunn, Assistant Curate, Caversham and Maple-dunham (Oxford); to be Priest-in-Charge, Fitchampstead St James (same diocese).

The Rev Alan Taylor, Vicar, Leeds St Aidan (Ripon); to be also Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral.

The Rev Sally Vandyck, NSM, Chertsey St Peter (Guildford); to be

NSM Curate, Ross Team, and Lion Group (Hereford).

Retirements and resignations

The Rev Paul Barlow, NSM, Walford, Bishopscote, Goodrich, Marston and Welsh Bicknor (Hereford) resigned October 17, with permission to officiate (same diocese).

The Rev Peter Brightman, NSM Curate, Widcombe (Bath & Wells) resigned August 31 for health reasons.

The Rev Michael Duval, NSM Curate, Selworthy, Timberscombe, Wootton Courtenay and Luxcombe (Bath & Wells) retired September 30.

The Rev Peter East, Vicar, Wiveliscombe w Chipstable, Huish Champflower and Claworth (Bath & Wells) resigned September 28.

The Rev John Yeard, Vicar, West Molesey (Guildford) retired October 31.

Other appointment

Mr Colin Sheppard, Deputy Chief Constable, Norfolk Constabulary, to be Diocesan Secretary (York).

DEVASTATION IN PAKISTAN

From Arnold Zeitlin

Over Bhola Island, Pakistan, Nov 16.

The devastation is virtually complete in the southern half of this battered island which took the full impact of last week's cyclone and tidal waves which, according to estimates, swept hundreds of thousands of people to their deaths. The relief commissioner in Dacca said today that according to an official confirmed count 32,871 people died as a result of the storm. But other officials made mention of a death toll of between 300,000 and 500,000.

Most bodies have been buried in mass graves. Survivors spotted from the air in the 800 sq. mile area hardest hit wandered on high ground above the water which still covered much of the flat land. Blood from crushed cattle stained the fields where their carcasses were flung. The survivors, having buried most of the dead themselves in an area where relief is still scarce, were seen dragging huge bloated cattle carcasses to

ON THIS DAY

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from the aircraft it was possible to smell the odour of death, but the pilot said the situation had improved on that of two days ago when the small island made pilots vomit and then take sleeping pills after their flights over the area.

Water and wind had crushed an area in which Bengali farmers lived, clustered in tree-shaded communities with a density of 600 to a square mile. Most home sites remained, but corrugated iron roofs had fallen on the ground. The land is perfectly flat, much of it already dyked to prevent the sea from over-running it. Nothing was seen which could have blocked the 20ft tidal waves. There was no place anyone could have sought shelter. A whole village has disappeared as if sucked up by a huge vacuum cleaner, leaving only muddy outlines of house foundations. The enormous force of wind and water was seen clearly on a tiny island between Hatisa and Bhola, where a cargo ship of 500 tons had been raised from sea and set upright on the shore 50 yards inland. No living person was seen on board.

WINE PAPERS

Centrum contains 33 vitamins, minerals and other micro-nutrients, with more essential vitamins and minerals at 100% RDA. When a balanced diet isn't possible, there's no more complete multimineral multivitamin.

Lifeboats

Series ends with familiar tale of woe as Australia power their way to victory

Britain fall at final hurdle once more

Great Britain 20
Australia 37

By Christopher Irvine

NOT surprisingly, Australia never tire of the same old story in rugby league. Its well-thumbed pages ended in another predictable and sobering 2-1 series defeat for Great Britain. Amid a wretched sense of déjà vu at Elland Road yesterday, the home side lost a deciding match there for the third time in seven years.

After the recovery to level the series at Old Trafford last week, the mistakes that haunted Britain in the first match at Wembley returned with a vengeance. Everything that could go wrong for Britain did go wrong, starting with the try that they conceded after 45 seconds. That drained any confidence they might have had and six further tries by Australia stemmed from the comedy of errors.

No matter how hard they tried to ignore the weight of history, it pressed down relentlessly on the home side. In a seemingly endless pursuit, Britain appear condemned to second place. It has become a biennial ritual, since the last triumph in 1970, that Britain lose the Ashes — usually with a degree of credit — and are left to ponder the lessons — the main one being that, as long as rugby league inspires year-round enthusiasm in small pockets of the country, Britain might never have sufficient numbers to tackle Australia as equals.

Like a boxer rendered senseless by the first punch, Britain were left staggering from the opening try by Ken Nagas. Paul Atcheson's name was still being read out over the public address system when he was caught unawares by Daley's chip over the Britain defence. Nagas took full advantage of a friendly bounce and exposed the full back's glaring lack of pace to score a try that set the tone for the rest of the match.

A series brought to life by Britain's gutsy win the previous week was suddenly undermined.



Daley, the Australia captain, joins in the celebrations after another try in his side's victory over Great Britain yesterday

Australia never needed to touch the heights of which they are capable, as Britain's nervy defence committed blunder after blunder.

Although Britain outscored Australia after the break, a twelfth successive series victory had already been secured. All the bad memories of the world club championship were revived by the defensive ineptitude displayed in the first half. If the hapless Atcheson had not been helped off with a groin

injury, he would surely have been replaced, but not before he surrendered possession as he careered out of defence and presented Daley with a gift try.

This was a poor-packed performance by Australia. There was no repeat of the frills attempted without success at Old Trafford for they did not dare suffer the ignominy of becoming the first touring side since 1959 to return from Britain defeated. With Daley operating like

a puppet master, Smith superb at loose forward and Tallis demonic in his tackling, Britain were hampered into early submission.

Andy Farrell's performance was a grave disappointment by his standards. The Britain captain's nerves showed as much as the rest of his team-mates. There was no tactical kicking to speak of and, whereas the home performance needed to be several notches above the one at Old Trafford, it fell

woefully below par, as Australia raced to a 25-2 lead by half-time.

Wendell Sailor's muscular running and ruthless opportunism brought him two tries in eight minutes. From a scrum after an attempted interception by McDermott, Lockyer cleverly drew Sailor on his inside and Scullthorpe had the hopeless task of trying to stop him. The next try followed a hospital pass by Farrell to Morley, which Girdler swooped on from 70

metres out and Sailor confidently did the rest.

Daley's try and a barnstorming effort by Thorn, this time from a knock on by Haughton, were indicative of the panic in the Britain ranks. There was no let-up from Smith at the start of the second half as he split Forshaw and Joynt from acting half back. Smith learnt of his man-of-the-match award as he was in the sin bin after a fracas that at least spurred Britain into action.

A kind bounce from a steeping kick by Goulding provided Haughton, a substitute, with his first try. A smart passage of handling brought Australia's final try by Kearns before the consolation, such as it was, for Britain of Robinson providing the best individual moment with an electrifying try beneath the posts, and a second for the tireless Haughton.

Not that a 17-point margin in any way reflected Australia's sheer dominance. Andy Goodway, the Britain coach, who has a year to put things right before the World Cup in the southern hemisphere, said: "It's again exposed the problems we have in producing quality players compared with the Australian production line."

The answer from John Lang, the Australia coach, is for the game in Britain to look seriously at its competition and cut out the deadwood, of which there is plenty. None of this, however, accounts for the errors that overwhelmed Britain's Ashes hopes once again.

SCORERS: Great Britain: Tries: Haughton (2), Robinson; Goals: Farrell (4); Australia: Tries: Sailor (2), Nagas, Daley, Thorn, Smith, Kearns; Goals: Girdler (4); Dropped goal: Lockyer. GREAT BRITAIN: P. Atcheson (St Helens), J. Robinson (Wigan), K. Radford (Wigan), P. Newlove (St Helens), A. Harte (St Helens), A. Farrell (Wigan, captain), R. Goulding (St Helens), B. McDermott (Bradford), J. Lowe (Bradford), P. Broadbent (Sheff), C. Joynt (St Helens), A. Morley (Leeds), P. Scullthorpe (Warrington), Substitutes: S. Long (St Helens), S. Haughton (Wigan), S. McManis (Bradford), M. Forshaw (Bradford). AUSTRALIA: D. Lockyer (Bradford), K. Nagas (Cardiff), A. Ellinghaus (Cronulla), R. Girdler (Parramatta), W. Sailor (Bradford), L. Daley (Cardiff), C. Kearns (Parramatta), J. Smith (Cardiff), S. Wainwright (North Queensland), B. Thorn (Brisbane), G. Tallis (Brisbane), B. Joyce (Cardiff), D. Smith (Bradford), Substitutes: R. Kearns (Blackburn), M. Adamson (Parramatta), B. Kinnear (Parramatta), R. Richardson (Cronulla), P. Houston (New Zealand). Referee: P. Houston.

Tracing root cause of inferiority complex

Throughout the anthems and for some time into the decisive final match of the international series at Elland Road, a lone white balloon hovered in the breeze just above the centre circle. It was, by a distance, the longest anything in Great Britain's colours remained buoyant yesterday afternoon.

For it took just 43 seconds for the belief that Britain could beat Australia at rugby league on home ground in a series for the first time since 1959. In those devastating seconds, Paul Atcheson, garlanded for his debut at full back at Old Trafford eight days earlier, felt the noose around his neck as his error, his palpable inability to tackle Ken Nagas, allowed the Canberra Raider in for the first try.

Since this was to be a monumental British effort, one of the national team putting back reason to believe, to hope, to rebuild buoyancy in the northern rugby game, why blame a young sportsman in isolation?

Rob Hughes admires the versatility and maturity that yielded another series victory for Australia against Great Britain

Rugby league is a cruel and sometimes crude game. It is raw in its passion and power, and quite naked in seeking a villain of the piece. And yet, in the 28 minutes that Atcheson was to last, before being helped off with a groin injury, he typified the stumbling ineptitude, born no doubt of a fear of failure, that gave Australia all the impetus they could desire.

Atcheson, the St Helens full back, is not really a rookie; he is 24. Consider, then, that Craig Gower, the Australian, is but 19. He wears the green and gold with pride, he drank lustily from the cup in the dressing-room and, sporting a gold earring, he epitomises the versatility of the Australian players, and the privilege of a background that steeped youngsters in his game. "I started playing when I was five," he said. "There are more than a

dozen clubs in my area, and some of them run five sides for the under eights."

Perhaps that is why this Australian boy did not exhibit the nervous errors of Andy Farrell, the captain, Atcheson and the rest of the Britain team. Gower, a four-year contract with Penrith on the outer suburbs of Sydney already signed, lives at home with his mother, but owns two houses near Cronulla Beach.

So, possibly, the rewards and the very roots of rugby league in the two hemispheres must be considered before Britain — in particular Northern England — can rediscover a semblance of the omnipotence of the game it exported to Australia 90 years ago.

"I'm driven on by absolute determination to beat those bloody Aussies," Maurice Lindsay, the

chief executive of the Rugby Football League, said afterwards. He had managed three Great Britain teams in losing Test series. He had hoped, like his countrymen, that the heroic and surprise victory in Manchester denoted a turning of fortune.

And he probably knew better, probably envisaged before the third match began that John Lang, the former hooker now coaching the Australia side, would be saying in victory: "It's a terrific feeling, not just that we won, but that we blew them off the park. You get out and get stuck in, and it's amazing how the bounce goes your way. It's about handling under pressure at this level."

The bounce: how capriciously that first ball, booted downfield by Girdler, sat up invitingly for Nagas. He, playing only because

of injury to Brett Mullins, accepted the ball with alacrity. Still, Atcheson, 6ft 3in and more than 15 stone, should have nailed him, but mistimed his lunge, and the Australian was in, over and out.

By half-time it was a massacre, the Australians having run in five tries, without playing scintillating rugby, and leading 25-2. They had simply capitalised on errors that came from the men in white, and the great expectations of a capacity 39,337 crowd were stunned almost to silence.

True, the defiant spirit late on did rekindle some pride, but I wonder if the large numbers of so-called British supporters who booed the Australian national anthem will now reflect that this misbehaviour does nothing but get into the soul of a truly competitive opponent, building, if it were needed, their resolve to conquer.

The emphatic pace, the power, the quickness of hand and eye of the Australians looked as if it was fashioned in a different stratosphere, nevermind hemisphere.



Farrell made nervous errors as Great Britain captain

BASKETBALL: HOME OFFICE STILL CONSIDERING CHANGE OF EMPLOYER FOR LEWIS

American cannot join frustrated Royals

By Nicholas Harling

PETTY bureaucracy at the Home Office is compounding the plight of Watford Royals at the foot of the Budweiser League. The Hertfordshire club, still without a win after their 93-76 home defeat by Crystal Palace on Saturday, have been unable to include Cleave Lewis, the 35-year-old American, in their squad even though he has been released by Worthing Bears.

Vince Macaulay-Razag, the

Royals owner, said: "The Home Office have issued him with a work permit, but he still can't play until they have approved his change of employer. We'd have been better off cancelling his original work permit, sending him out of the country and re-applying for a fresh one."

Palace, one place above them, had been regarded as beatable, but Watford were doomed to their fourteenth league defeat of the season long before the end. The

Royals' frustration was illustrated by the dismissal in the third quarter of Leon Noel for abusing Will Jones, the referee, after a foul on Junior Williams.

Worthing Bears have their troubles, too. Greg Fullerton's withdrawal as owner after buying the club last summer has left a promising squad in danger of being broken up. On Saturday, they lost 89-76 at home to London Towers. James Hamilton, a former Bear, collected 22 points for

the Towers, while Ryan Williams scored 28 for Worthing.

A league record was set at Bracknell, where four periods of overtime were required before Thames Valley Tigers beat Derby Storm 145-144 in the highest-scoring game of the season. Tony Holley's 49 points for the Tigers was also a best for the season but, as the scorer of 41 for the Storm, Ted Berry was the unluckiest loser of the weekend.

Results, page 43

SPEEDWAY: PETERBOROUGH PROMOTER CONCERNED BY BURGEONING GRAND PRIX

Oakes warning over expansion plans

By Tony Hoare

THE proposed expansion of the world championship grand prix poses a serious threat to British speedway, according to Peter Oakes, the Peterborough Panthers promoter, who is considering dropping the Elite League club into the Premier League.

Oakes has revealed that the Panthers will be unable to run on 12 of their regular Friday race nights in 1998. Five Fridays will be lost because

two Peterborough riders, Jason Crump and Ryan Sullivan, have qualified for the grand prix, with seven others ruled out through other commitments.

Oakes said: "The grand prix will affect more and more clubs, we are just the first to be hit."

There are plans for qualifying meetings for the grand prix, which would last a week, and talk of there being more grands prix. That is bound to affect British speedway — we

will end up being without our top riders for the entire week."

The Peterborough promotion suffered financially this season when his gamble on opening a sister track at Skegness failed, and the Panthers were forced to complete their fixtures at Ryde, on the Isle of Wight. Oakes is now pinning his hopes on finding sponsorship to cover the cost of staying in the Elite League.

"The financial situation does come into it," Oakes said, "but, in 1998, if we ran Elite

League we would have a period from July 31 to September 25 with only one meeting on a Friday."

Oakes says that he will wait until British promoters stage their annual conference, in Lanzarote next week, before announcing his final decision on the club's future. Should the Panthers drop into the Premier League, they would make Crump, whom they signed two years ago in a British record transfer deal of £35,000, available for loan.

Results, page 43

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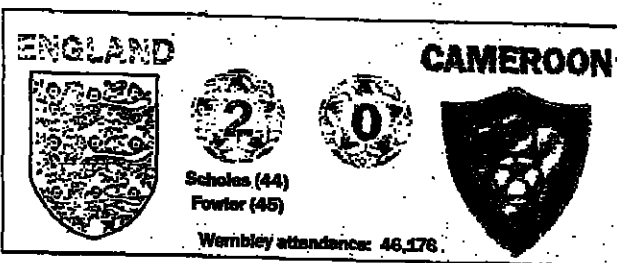
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Ferdinand's emergence prompts dilemma after England's victory over Cameroon

Hoddle contemplates sweeping changes



BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS more than an hour after the end of the game when Glenn Hoddle strode into the Red Bar at Wembley and took his seat. Behind him were two televisions, each showing action from a different match. One beamed out the dying minutes of Italy's victory over Russia, the other played highlights of Barnet's rather more prosaic FA Cup defeat against Watford. They formed a neat backdrop to the England coach: a symbol of a man in two minds.

Much of what Hoddle had to say after England's languid but assured victory over Cameroon on Saturday was positive and decisive. He praised Paul Scholes to the skies after a performance of sustained excellence and a goal of sheer brilliance. "He can be the jewel in the crown," Hoddle said. There were words of encouragement, too, for Robbie Fowler, who responded to the suggestions that this was his last chance to prove himself worthy of being Alan Shearer's understudy by scoring with a clinical header. He, it was clear, had advanced his chances of making Hoddle's squad for the World Cup finals next summer.

But there was a cloudier side to what Hoddle had to say, too. Usually the most decisive of coaches, he admitted that he was clearly impaled on the horns of a dilemma that goes to the very heart of England's prospects of success in France. Caution sits on one shoulder, his instincts and his footballing philosophy perch on the other.

This, moreover, is a choice that goes beyond the thorny question of which 22 he should select. It concerns the formation of the team, a radical change from the pragmatism that Hoddle has followed so far. His dilemma is whether to build his defence around a young sweeper of soaring potential, Rio Ferdinand.

Ferdinand, 19, has only just broken into the West Ham United team, but such has been the maturity of his performances that he has quickly progressed to the full England squad. On Saturday, he stepped off the bench to make his debut seven minutes before half-time, after Gareth Southgate was carried off on a stretcher with an ankle injury.

In defence, he did not put a foot wrong against a side of limited attacking ability. More significant, Ferdinand added an offensive weapon to England's armoury that has been sorely lacking. One elegant surge out of defence in the 66th minute that created a clear shooting chance for Fowler was like a revelatory flash of inspiration.

Hoddle has made no secret of the fact that he would love to play with a sweeper, but until now he has discounted it because of lack of personnel and lack of time. Now, Ferdinand has emerged and Hoddle has to decide whether to persevere with him.

"We have had a hell of a good defensive record with the clean sheets that we have got and the players we have used," Hoddle said. "It is a delicate one for me to try to sort out and get the balance right. A lot depends on who from midfield can step into defence if the sweeper presses forward. Paul can do that."

"What I have got to decide is if that is really going to make



Scholes, who capped an outstanding display with a superbly-taken goal, evades Ipoa's challenge at Wembley. Photograph: Marc Aspland

us a threat to go on and win the World Cup. If that is what I really feel could be the added extra, then it would obviously be worth looking at."

"I like that system anyway. If the player or the system is not quite ready then I would be a fool to try to force the issue. If you do not have someone to fill in, you could get caught with your pants down and concede goals."

"The sweeper can be an attacking option. Ronald Koeman... stepped in there and he could hurt you by hitting a 60-yard pass that could nullify eight or nine players. No disrespect, but I do not think Rio is going to be able to do that. Ruud Krol did that. There are only isolated players who can achieve that."

"Whether I give Rio another chance depends on all sorts of things. I am not sure whether there is enough time and whether we have got enough games. My main concern is that I do not take my eye off

the fact that we have to do well in the World Cup."

Against Cameroon, no longer the foremost power in African football even though they have qualified for France, the odds for World Cup success were promising, at least. Playing with a semi-experimental team, England always looked the more dominant, creative force. Ince was outstanding in his holding role in front of the back four and Gascoigne linked well with Scholes and McManaman in midfield. In defence, Hinchcliffe looked a useful addition to the back three and Campbell was as solid as ever.

Scholes, though, was indeed the jewel that sparkled. His goal two minutes before half-time came after Gascoigne had caused panic in the Cameroon defence with a jinking run past four opponents. Foe and Kalla tackled each other trying to clear the danger and when the ball ran on to the diminutive Manchester United midfielder, he dinked

it over Ogonndzi with a stub of his right foot and it arched into the air, falling just under the crossbar.

With the half deep in injury time, Fowler ended the match as a contest. Ince played the ball out wide to Beckham and when he sent in an inviting, curling cross, Ince left for his Liverpool team-mate, who dispatched it unerringly.

The England attack, once so problematic in its selection for France, is beginning to pick itself. Now the agonising is turning to defence.

ENGLAND (3-5-1-1): N Martin (Leeds United); S Campbell (Tottenham Hotspur); G Southgate (Aston Villa); R Ferdinand (West Ham United); S Hinchcliffe (Sheff Wed); D Beckham (Manchester United); P Gascoigne (Liverpool); R Lee (Newcastle United); P Ince (Liverpool); S Makenzie (Leeds United); P McManaman (Manchester United); P Scholes (Manchester United); C Sutton (Blackburn Rovers); R Fowler (Liverpool). CAMEROON (3-4-3): V Ogonndzi (L'Esport de Baling); R Kalla (Parramatta); P Bongo (FC Metz); Y Mankondo (unattached); E Ebi (Coton Sport); S Ipoa (Rapid Vienne); M V Fox (FC Lorient); J J Ebi (SC Bastia); S S. Ebi (FC Nantes); P Wome (AS Luchesse); P Mbona (Gambia Coast); G Njoku (Gendebelle); M J J J (Olympique Lyon). Referee: T Houge (Norway)



Pair of aces: England's goalscorers against Cameroon, Fowler and Scholes, set off for the dressing-rooms

BOOKING A TICKET TO FRANCE
Glenn Hoddle has six international matches in which to finalise the 22-man England squad (three goalkeepers and 19 outfield players) for the World Cup finals in France next summer. Oliver Holt assesses the form of Saturday's first match against Cameroon.

CERTAINTIES: Seaman, Ince, Gascoigne, Shearer, Sheringham, Scholes, Adams, Campbell, Beckham.

PROBABLES: Le Saër, Martyn, Southgate, G Neville, Hinchcliffe, P Neville, Batty, Butt.

POSSIBLES: Flowers, Walker, Watson, R Ferdinand, Pallister, Pearce, Lee, McManaman, Redknapp, Le Tissier, Anderton, Sutton, Fowler, Wright, Merson, Cole, L Ferdinand, Collimore, Owen.

NEXT MATCH: Feb 11 v Colombia or Argentina (Wembley)

Cameroon no longer fly flag for Africa

When Cameroon ushered Salomon Olembe, 16 years and 342 days, from the bench into the match against England on Saturday, they granted him 17 minutes of spurious fame as the youngest player to take the field in a full international at Wembley. They also signalled, palpably, that Cameroon is not the nation to fulfil the prophecy of Walter Winterbottom, the first England manager, that Africa will produce a World Cup winner by the end of the millennium.

Rather, this Cameroon was displaying a search for a gimmick, something to distract the reality that their own talent pool is nothing comparable with the 1990 team that defeated Argentina in the opening game of the World Cup in Italy, and thrilled us all to the prospect of Africa's potential.

Be not deceived, however. There is a team of mature African players, Nigeria, that could, indeed, be a semi-finalist in France next summer. Already the Olympic champions, a feat that required removing almost full-strength teams from Argentina and Brazil from the tournament, Nigeria's problem is organisational and political.

There are Commonwealth heads of government who wish to see Nigeria, with its exemplary talents such as Nwanku Kanu, removed from the World Cup before a ball is kicked because of the misdemeanours of General Sani Abacha's military Government. Cameroon, meanwhile, are a country lost between looking backwards and trying to escalate time forwards.

It is not just that they lack the presence of Roger Milla, the captivating forward who so audaciously sparked that defeat of Argentina in 1990. On Saturday, they had no one remotely as powerful and as composed as Emmanuel Kunder, the defender who had thighs like Mike Tyson, no one of such lightning midfield peripatety as Louis M'fiede, and no big centre forward, such as Cyrille Makenzie.

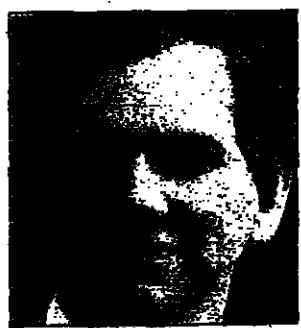
Instead, though little of body and

sometimes esoteric, they did at times embarrass England with their rhythmic short passing; alas, it lacked the explosive elements, the surprise, and when England's first goal was conjured by Paul Gascoigne, lacked even a semblance of correct tackling. Indeed, when the two tall Cameroon defenders collided in both going for the same ball and Paul Scholes, undoubtedly England's best performer, nipped through to flick the ball over the goalkeeper, the know-how that England possess, but Cameroon have lost, was unmistakable.

"We need to do the right things, or we risk losing the character, the spontaneity of our game," Makenzie had predicted of Cameroon seven years ago. "I've seen what happens in France. There are soccer schools everywhere, but all the youngsters end up like peas in a pod: they are all taught the same."

Makenzie, like many of his generation, had acquired the skills that were the pearls of his continent at

ROB HUGHES



At Wembley

home, unfettered by European notions of team order. We saw it in the cheek with which Milla and others could embellish the game at the highest level. They had, then, a blue-

eyed, blond, French coach, Claude Leroy, who knew how to encourage African instinct, to implant just as much order as he felt they could embrace, to meld the two without harming the end product. Leroy is now general manager at Paris Saint-Germain and one wonders if Jean Manga Onguene, the present coach of Cameroon, should not call on his services to recreate, if possible, the blend of 1990.

Even if he were persuaded, the raw material is not apparent. This, I suspect, was also foreseen. Yidekatchew Tessema, the Ethiopian who was the first president of the African Football Confederation in 1957, had warned: "African football must make its choice. Either we keep our footballers in Africa, so that we teach them to reach the highest peaks in world competitions and restore dignity to the African people, or we let our best elements go, remaining the eternal suppliers to favoured countries abroad."

The boy Olembe looked neither embarrassed for skill and movement, nor particularly special when, on Saturday, he became a replacement for Jean-Jacques Etame, who had been Cameroon's one outstanding passer of the ball. They both play for French clubs, Etame for Bastia, Olembe for Nantes, but the difference is that Olembe has not had time to enjoy an African youth. He was plucked away in adolescence, as countless young Africans have been, particularly by French, Belgian and Italian clubs, through the past decade.

Little good does it seem to do the boys, their paymasters, their countries, or anyone but the merchants who coin off their fees as licensed FIFA agents. They are procurers of embryonic talent and they ruin the growth at a stroke.

England, thank goodness, has a more mature ideal. We saw it in the 66th minute on Saturday when Rio Ferdinand, schooled at West Ham United and already aware of the error of his ways when it comes to drink-driving, at least has roots that offer him the chance to grow into something quite special on our playing fields. Ferdinand, on as a substitute, elegantly patrolled Wembley with his tall and measured stride.

He did what Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, has been seeking from a defender: he came from the back, converting defence into attack simply by following his instinct, by using the vision that Franz Beckenbauer showed 25 years ago. When Ferdinand advanced three quarters of the field, Robbie Fowler squandered the opening, but remember that 66th minute, for it points to a brighter tomorrow for England.

Africa, if Nigeria can hold together their potential and be allowed to deliver, remains, eternally, the continent of tomorrow. England, if it nurses the opening that Saturday provided for Ferdinand, can begin to aspire to reclaim its yesterday.



Cameroon lack players with the captivating skill of Milla, right, who inspired his country in Italia 90

Brolin may return to England to play for Palace

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TOMAS BROLIN could be returning to English football with Crystal Palace. Steve Coppell, the Palace manager, has invited the former Leeds United striker to a trial at Selhurst Park.

A Palace official said: "Steve Coppell has invited Brolin over for a week. He wants to see what the player's attitude is like and a permanent deal is not out of the question."

"Palace have gone to Sweden to play a friendly while there is a break in the Premiership programme this weekend, and Steve is hoping to finalise the offer of a trial while he is out there."

Brolin, who had an unhappy two-year spell at Elland Road after his £4.2 million move from Italian club Parma, is now playing for Stockholm club Hammarby, newly promoted to the Swedish first division.

Leeds saved £420,000 in wages by freeing Brolin from his contract before it expired next June. They decided to cut their losses in order to avoid a Football Association inquiry into the string of fines imposed on the former Swedish international for various misdemeanours. Brolin, 27, scored just four goals in 27 appearances for the Yorkshire club.

Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, is reportedly prepared to sell his stake in the club for £60 million. Johnson, who bought Everton in 1994, is said to have become disillusioned with life at Goodison Park after coming under increasing pressure from supporters over his apparent unwillingness to give Howard Kendall, the manager, money to bring in new players.

The former Tranmere Rovers chairman's attempt to move the club away from Goodison Park — their home since 1892 — have also been upset a significant number of supporters.

The Football Association is expected to announce before the end of the year which company has won the contract to supply England's kit into the next century. Claims that Nike, an American company, has offered a £150 million ten-year deal have been dismissed as "premature" by an FA spokesman.

Umbro holds the contract, which runs out in June 1999, and is fighting to maintain its interest.

An FA spokesman said: "Nike and Umbro are just two of several companies who have tendered for the contract. As yet the FA have not made a decision. It could be weeks or a couple of months, but it would be expected probably around the turn of the year."

Keep our opinions to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

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TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: ONLY THE CHAMPIONSHIP WILL DO FOR BIG-SPENDING MIDDLESBROUGH'S FANS

High rollers give thanks for Merson

Norwich City 1
Middlesbrough 3

By KERRY PIKE

THEY can disagree all they like in Wiltshire and the West Midlands, but a division that boasts Swindon Town and West Bromwich Albion among its leading lights does not take a great team to win it. That is just as well for Middlesbrough, for whom greatness is a distant dream, but supporters still seething over relegation last season should be in no doubt nonetheless: if promotion is not achieved with something in hand, there should be a public inquiry to follow the rolling of heads at the Riverside.

Ravanello and Juninho may have left for warmer climes and he might have had to do without around £8 million worth of talent on Saturday, yet Bryan Robson was still able to field a team costing the best part of £20 million to assemble. Surrounded by wealthy and ambitious rivals, Middlesbrough remain the highest rollers, their team cheered on by 30,000 at home while also boasting the best away record in the Nationwide League first division. Failure, surely, would be to finish second.

Yet, while Robson was entitled to wear a satisfied smile in public at Carrow Road, where Norwich City's best 45 minutes of the season had merely delayed an emphatic Middlesbrough victory, it would be surprising if he was not harbouring a couple of private misgivings on the journey north.

Robson might ponder, for example, how a team boasting international quality defenders could be so exposed for the goal with which Norwich took the lead in the 33rd minute. To back off Mills and invite a cross was deficient enough, but to allow a forward of Iwan Roberts's aerial prowess a free

header from a dozen yards was shockingly inept.

And Robson cannot afford to leave unaddressed the ill-discipline that could have proved their undoing in this match. Baker's tackle on Grant, that led to the Norwich player being taken off on a stretcher, and Summerbell's reckless challenge on Milligan could — perhaps should — have been punished by red rather than yellow cards.

When it reverted to a battle of skill, though, there was no doubting Middlesbrough's eventual superiority. In Emerson and Paul Merson they possess players outstanding at this level, and it soon became clear why Robson was so insistent on gaining Merson's release from England duty.

Middlesbrough's 39th-minute equaliser was scored by Beck via both posts but made by Merson's sublime flick, and two goals in three minutes early in the second half killed the game. Merson put them ahead after an inspirational pass by Hignett, and the pacy Ormerod was rewarded for his midnight dash across country from Crewe, where he had been with the England Under-18 squad, with the third goal.

"They are the favourites for promotion and for 40 minutes we played them off the park," Mike Walker, the Norwich manager, said. "Against a lesser team we would have been two or three up, but getting Merson back made all the difference. He is a £5 million player and he showed it. It was very noble of Glenn Hoddle." His frustration was easy to understand. With all their natural advantages, the last thing Middlesbrough need is a helping hand.

NORWICH CITY (4-4-3): A Marshall — P Sinton, R Newman, K Scott, V Segura, N Adams, P Grant (sub: D Mills, 26th min; sub: E Fyfe, 33rd min), M Milligan, A Foster — I Roberts, R Flack (sub: J Bellamy, 73rd min).
MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-2): M Schwarzer — S Baker (sub: C Harrison, 33rd), N Pearson, S Nielsen, G Foster — A Ormerod, M Summerbell, Emerson, C Hignett — P Merson, M Beck.
Referee: S Manton.



Campbell, left, struggles off a challenge from Wassall to score the goal that put Forest top of the table. Photograph: Chippy Wood / EMPICS

Birmingham find a new turn on the slide

Nottingham Forest 1
Birmingham City 0

By RICHARD HOBSON

BIRMINGHAM City have won just once in 13 games. In that time they have scored seven goals and slipped from second place to fourteenth in the Nationwide League first division. David Gold, the chairman, has issued a vote of confidence in Trevor Francis, the manager. It is easy to think that might happen next.

Peculiar things can happen when a side is down, but rarely of the extraordinary kind. In the seventeenth minute of their match at the City Ground on Saturday, Kevin Campbell, the Nottingham Forest forward, overpowered Wassall, preferred to Bruce because of his pace, and scuffed his shot wide of Ian Bennett.

At this point it appears the ball decided to follow a route of its own volition. "I watched it slowly and suddenly it moved towards the post," Francis said. "I never thought it was going in. The lads said it was going wide as well, and then hit a divot."

Francis, who said that he did not feel under pressure, had a second look yesterday, and perhaps a third and fourth as well. He has taken to scrutinising video tapes in the hope of enlightenment to reverse the trend. "I am analysing every game and have to ask if I am missing something," he said.

"It seems to me that we are playing well and coming off without winning. We cannot keep putting in that effort with nothing to show for it."

He is right, but only to a point. Birmingham did not look like a side devoid of confidence and Dave Bassett, the Forest manager, would

not have grumbled with a draw. McCarthy had the better of Rogers and Furlong was a nuisance up front. Yet, until Birmingham convert a better percentage of their chances, they will continue to abseil the table.

In the first half, Devlin shot straight at Beasant from 14 yards after an error by Hjelde. Beasant produced a good save to deny Furlong after the break, but Cottee, a substitute on his debut, could not convert a fine cross by Bass from close range. Johnson had a goal disallowed for an earlier foul by Furlong on Hjelde.

Francis is not the first manager to cite Forest as the best side in the division. The table suggests that too, with victory lifting them above Swindon Town on goal difference. As the side included four players who cost more than £2 million — a fifth, Andy Johnson, is recovering from injury — then this is not much of a surprise.

although Steve Stone made a salient point last week when he said that, on present form, Forest would not be among the frontrunners in the FA Carling Premiership.

"We can play better but, over 46 games, you cannot expect a tip-top performance every time," Bassett acknowledged during a stream of consciousness that would have tested the shorthand of the most dextrous Hansard reporter.

Forest have acquired the knack of performing moderately and still winning. Birmingham cannot win when they play well.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-3): D Beasant — D Lytle, J Hjelde, S Christie, A Rogers (sub: C Armstrong, 55th min), S Stone, C Cooper, S Gerrard, C Ben-Willem (sub: J Woon, 73rd min), K Campbell, P Van Hoofdonk.
BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): I Bennett — J Bass, D Wessell, G Abbott, M Gough (sub: M Johnson, 72nd min), McCarthy, S Robinson, M O'Connor (sub: B Hughes, 75th), C Merson — P Devlin (sub: A Cottee, 45th), P Furlong.
Referee: P Danson.

Horlock on hand to provide ray of light

Sheffield United 1
Manchester City 1

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

BEFORE the kick-off, the announcer at Bramall Lane hailed the followers of Manchester City as "probably the most loyal supporters in the Nationwide League". It is a title few would dispute: who else could endure such torture as their team regularly inflicts on them, yet continue to shout their favourites on so passionately?

Only the hardest of hearts could begrudge them their rare pleasures, of which this draw, earned with virtually the last kick of the match, must count as one of the sweetest in recent weeks.

So was the result, against serious contenders for promotion, a turning point? "A point," was all a relieved Frank Clark, the manager, would concede. "The three wins we've had have all been excellent wins but we haven't been able to take it on. We've got to string a few positive results together. I hope it's the beginning of a run."

There were few early signs that it would be the beginning of anything other than another frustrating afternoon, with Brian Deane's goal for Sheffield United, after one of several penalty-area mêlées, promising to be the first of many.

Yet the home side failed to build on their advantage and, with the final seconds ticking away, Georgi Kinkladze put over a low, wickedly-cutting cross for Kevin Horlock to touch in, to the unfettered delight of the City faithful.

"Their goal galvanised us into playing; we kept going and we got a little break," Clark said.

SHEFFIELD UNITED (3-5-2): S Taylor — D Holdsworth, M Barker, C Tier — N Borboron, M Patterson (sub: R Nelson, 55th min), M Ward, E Hulse, D Whitehouse — B Deane, G Taylor (sub: J A Farrant, 70th).
MANCHESTER CITY (3-4-1-2): M Margsson — K Symcox, G Weir, A Vaughan, R Egan, E McDermid, G Brennan (sub: P Dicker, 73rd), M Horlock — Kinkladze — G Creesey (sub: M Brown, 45th), C Russell.
Referee: P Pfeiffer.

Harford hitting the right note

Port Vale 1
West Bromwich Albion 2

By MARK HODKINSON

THE COAT might have been borrowed from *Columbo* and the twitchy, excitable footwork from someone who has missed two buses and is determined to catch the next.

Ray Harford, the West Bromwich Albion manager, does not like to sit down on the job. He prefers to ghost every move on the pitch, but it is played out in miniature as he prowls the few yards in front of his bench. A poor pass sees his hands buried deeper into his pockets while a goal brings forth an extravagant twist of his coat tails.

Afterwards, slumped against a wall and ambushed by reporters, the excitability has gone, and so has the coat — put away until the next match. "We showed a lot of

spirit, attitude and character today. We were by far the better team," Harford said.

West Brom's victory has taken them to joint top of the Nationwide League first division, but Harford still has the pained expression of someone recently diagnosed as having shingles. Perhaps the four seasons he spent alongside Kenny Dalglish at Blackburn Rovers have proved a masterclass in doormen.

Harford is fundamentally a coach and tactician, a man at ease with chalk and a blackboard. He delights in the clang of studs on the dressing-room floor, or a discussion on the merits of a five-man mid-field system; the rest — like facing the media or smiling now and again — is superfluous.

The West Brom players have clearly relished his counsel. For they play slick, passing football and have a fluidity of movement that was a little too

honed and canny for Port Vale to discern.

Neil Aspin, Port Vale's centre half and a professional footballer of 16 years' standing, summed up their plight. He has the misfortune to look older than the combined ages of the West Brom team and, as players broke from a packed



Harford: tactics paying off

midfield all round him, it was almost possible to hear his knees creaking and his mind racing.

Port Vale scored first, when Mills rose unmarked at a corner to head past Miller. "That's the first league goal Albion have conceded in 421 minutes and 42 seconds," piped up someone in the press box; a sponsorship deal with a local anorak company is already under negotiation.

Andy Hunt equalised with some neat footwork and Hamilton secured the win after Snijders had kindly headed the ball into his path. Albion played out the remainder of the match by stroking the ball around contentiously.

PORT VALE (4-4-3): P Hughes — M Carragher, M Sturges (sub: W Gordon, 55th min), N Aspin, A Tarkenton — G Armstrong, S Taylor (sub: A Porter, 70th), J Lister (sub: M Foye, 70th), R Hooper — L Mills, J Naylor.
WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-5-1): A Miller — P Holmes, D Burgess, P Rodop (sub: A O'Connor, 46th), D Smith — S Flynn, P Butler, R Snodgrass, I Hamilton, S Colclough — A Hunt.
Referee: R Farnham.

Stockport County 4
Swindon Town 2

By DAVID MADDOCK

SIX goals, and still this contest could have cured insomnia. Perhaps it was no coincidence that a linesman was called Horlicks.

It was dull because it was a match of poor quality. The goals came largely through mistakes, primarily, sadly, by Tony Warner, the goalkeeper on loan to Swindon Town. Just how Swindon topped the Nationwide League first division before kick-off was the talking point of the afternoon. As Steve McMahon, the manager, said afterwards, they couldn't pass water. Or words to that effect, anyway.

In the interests of fairness, it is prudent to note that County played with some enthusiasm and smothered any visiting intentions. Swindon also lost

Chris Hay, their top scorer, with an ankle injury, so to judge them on one performance would be a little harsh.

Even so, they do not look promotion material. "If we expect to be up at the top, then when we score two goals we should be getting something out of the game," McMahon



Hay: went off injured

said. "Five or six of my players didn't perform." You could bet that, had the manager still been out there on the pitch, they would have done better.

Swindon, though, had their moments. Hay burst through into the penalty area, only to be upended by the reckless Eric Nixon on the County goal. The forward saw his penalty saved, but converted the rebound, unfortunately picking up a potentially match-altering injury in the process of equalising. Later, Leitch shot crisply from 25 yards to bring the score briefly back to 3-2.

County had taken the lead through a wonderful 25-yard free kick from Paul Cook. "Some back on our bench said it was too far out to shoot," Gary Megson, the Stockport manager, said. The home team then stroled to victory with a close-range header from McIntosh and two second-half goals by Armstrong.

Angell also contrived to miss a hat-trick of opportunities, so it was a deserved victory for the team, if not the supporters. The home crowd was mean and niggled throughout, and thoroughly boorish in the way they moaned constantly at the referee.

But, worse, they also threw coins at Hay after he scored, and then a handful of supporters were allowed to parade by the side of the pitch and abuse him as he walked around the touchline for treatment.

"I didn't bother picking up the coins because they were only two-pence pieces — the mean lot," Hay joked, commendably afterwards.

STOCKPORT COUNTY (4-4-2): S Nixon — S Connolly, M Flynn, M McIntosh, D Steele — T Bennett, J Gannon, P Cook, K Cooper (sub: S Traill, 55th min), A Armstrong, B Angell (sub: A Mutch, 55th).
SWINDON TOWN (5-3-2): A Warner — I Doherty, S Brown, R Hulse, P Chappell, M Bennett — J Robinson (sub: S Newton, 45th min), M Kinsella, K Jones, M Holmes — S Creesey, G Creesey (sub: M Brown, 45th), C Russell.
Referee: M Brandwood.

Caretaker Hollins revels in his new responsibility

Queens Park Rangers 1
Stoke City 1

By PAT GIBSON

WHO IS the dressing-room joker at Queens Park Rangers? Simon Barker was asked the question in one of those player profiles in the match programmes and he nominated John Hollins, the reserve team coach who became caretaker manager when Stewart Houston and his assistant, Bruce Rioch, were dismissed last week.

"One of the funniest guys I have known and great for team spirit," Barker said. "John had his credit cards stolen recently and said he was quite happy because the

thief was spending less money than his wife usually does."

By the end of the match, Barker had revised his opinion. He thought that Hollins was not so much the joker, more the ace in the pack, as Rangers step up their search for a new manager. "John has really lightened the atmosphere and we are all hoping that he will get the job."

Hollins was hoping so, too, but Chris Wright, the Rangers chairman, clearly had other ideas. "We know who we would like and we will have to see if we can get him," he said, adding that Rangers were even prepared to wait until the end of the season.

That seems to rule out Hollins as well as David Pleat, another candidate who is available after his dismissal by Sheffield Wednesday, and is bound to increase the speculation that Alan Curbishley, the Charlton Athletic manager, is the man Rangers have in mind.

In the meantime, Hollins, 51, intends to enjoy himself. He looked disillusioned with football when he was shown the door by Chelsea, after his only previous experience of management nine years ago,

but now he says: "I would love the job."

His first move was to drop five players from the side beaten 3-0 at Middlesbrough in Houston's last match, including three — Harper, Rose and Morrow — who followed the old regime from Arsenal. However, it looked like back-firing on him when Forsyth headed Stoke City into the lead after four minutes.

It took Rangers 56 minutes to draw level and then it was in controversial circumstances. Sigurdsson was pulling at Spencer's shirt as he raced on to a long ball, but it was not until he had wriggled free and shot against the bar that the referee awarded a penalty, which Barker struck high into the net.

"I cannot believe how glum I am, having got a good point here," Chic Bates, the Stoke manager said, "but I won't say any more because I don't want to get into trouble with the FA." Hollins just kept smiling. But Johnson equalised on the stroke of half-time to leave Wolves eight points behind Nottingham Forest, the new leaders.

Honours were shared in the contest between Oxford Uni-

Aldridge proves age no barrier

HE IS now 39 years old, but age is no barrier to John Aldridge (David Maddock writes). Another goal straight out of his poacher's handbook gave Tranmere Rovers a much needed 1-0 victory at Bradford City.

The Tranmere player-manager admitted afterwards that drastic action had been required, with Rovers flirting dangerously close to the wrong end of the Nationwide League first division table.

Out came the boots for the first time this season and the result was a 61st-minute winning goal, thanks to a dart at the near post after a cross from Gary Stevens. "I still get the buzz but I'm too knackered to celebrate these days," Aldridge confessed.

Elsewhere, Wolverhampton Wanderers were consistent, at least, in their inconsistency with a disappointing home draw against Ipswich Town. Keane put them ahead in the first half but Johnson equalised on the stroke of half-time to leave Wolves eight points behind Nottingham Forest, the new leaders.

Honours were shared in the contest between Oxford Uni-

ted and Bury, but Huddersfield Town maintained their recent revival with a 1-0 victory over Reading, which gives them renewed hope of moving off the bottom.

They are now level on 14 points with Portsmouth after a winning goal from Dalton midway through the second half. "There is a real sense of optimism at this club now," Peter Jackson, the recently installed manager, said.

Portsmouth increased the pressure on Terry Fenwick, their manager, when they went down to a 4-1 home defeat by Sunderland, who enjoyed a goal from Summerbee on his debut.

Fenwick, who had to endure more calls for his dismissal from the Fratton Park fans, said: "There's no chance of me walking away because of a bit of shouting and I will turn things around. We were beaten by a very good side who I expect to be up near the top of the table next May, but we can't perform like that again."

"A defeat like that hurts and we have to get tougher in our approach, but if we keep plugging away the results will come."

Charlton accept the gifts from a generous Crewe

Charlton Athletic 3
Crewe Alexandra 2

By DAVID POWELL

THE programme said that Dave Walton always gives 110 per cent. Unfortunately for him, and for Crewe Alexandra, he gave rather less to a ball he played across his goal at The Valley on Saturday and Bradley Allen nipped in to score. It was that sort of day. A tale of gifts and gaffes.

Four goals were giveaways, the most absurd and costly being Walton's gift. Ultimately, it sent Crewe to their tenth defeat in 18 Nationwide League first division matches and the waters of relegation are lapsing over their feet.

Football clubs are known for their intolerance, but Dario Gradi, 14 years their manager, and with a contract to 2006, is too highly thought of at Crewe to be dumped unceremoniously.

The subject of managerial movement came up because Alan Curbishley, the incumbent at Charlton Athletic, has been talked of as a successor to Stewart Houston at Queens Park Rangers. Any manager

of a team that plays as neatly and incisively as Charlton did against Crewe deserves to be noticed, although Richard Murray, the vice-chairman, insisted: "We have a long-term plan and he is very much part of it."

Curbishley did not attend the post-match press conference, the task falling to Les Reed, the coach. "He has decided to put it to the back of his mind and let speculation take its course," Reed said.

Last season, Charlton were among the lowest-scoring teams in the division. This season, they are the highest, adding three more goals on Saturday in the absence of Clive Mendonca, their leading marksman.

"We have a variety of strikers and, though they have different strengths, whoever we play can slot in," Reed said. Allen, Mendonca's replacement, seized on Walton's underhit pass to round Jason Kearton, the Crewe goalkeeper, and fire Charlton 2-0 ahead.

Kath Jones, allowed in by Marcus Bignot's weak throw, had given Charlton the lead with an angled shot in a first half so one-sided that Kevin

Street's 45th-minute strike, amid the indecision of Charlton's defence, was Crewe's first shot on goal.

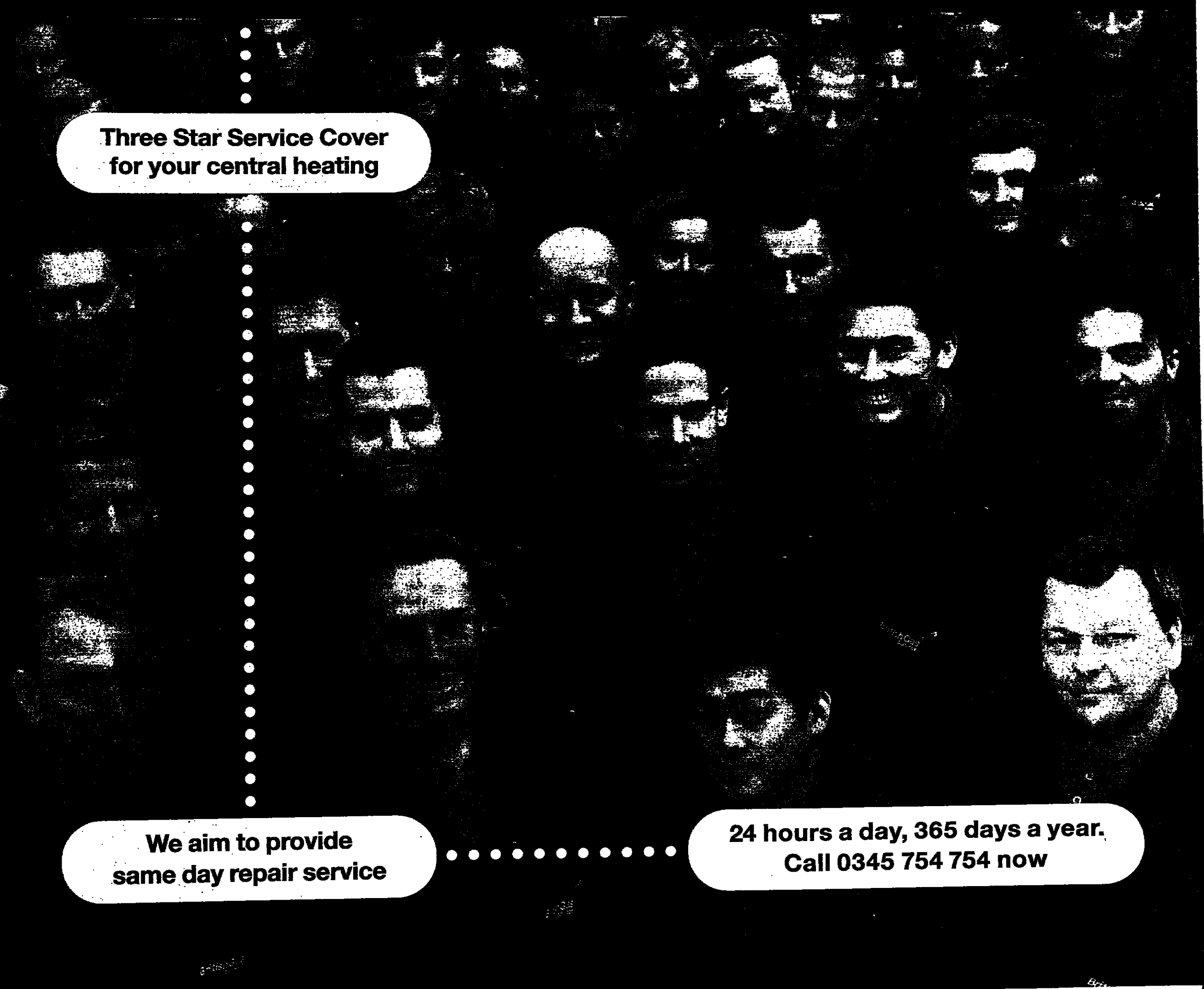
Midway through the second half, Charlton handed Crewe a second goal. A free kick by Shaun Smith seemed destined for Westwood, but, when he failed to connect, the ball continued, uninterrupted, into the net. While not blaming Andy Peterson entirely for the two soft goals, Reed said that his goalkeeper had hesitated coming off his line for the first and that the second "should have been a comfortable catch".

However, a crisp strike by Matt Holmes ensured that Charlton secured a deserved victory. A demanding two-part test of their promotion potential awaited: Nottingham Forest, the leaders, away, then Swindon Town, second, at home. Same gaffer in charge, Charlton say, but no more gaffes, please.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): A Peterson — S Brown, R Hulse, P Chappell, M Bennett — J Robinson (sub: S Newton, 45th min), M Kinsella, K Jones, M Holmes — S Creesey, G Creesey (sub: M Brown, 45th), C Russell.
CREWE ALEXANDRA (4-5-1): J Kearton — M Bignot, D Walton, A Westwood, S Smith, C Little (sub: L Urwin, 82nd), K Luck, C Charnock, S Sest, M Paves (sub: D Ashbole, 85th) — S Anthrobus.
Referee: M Pears.

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GOLF

Men talk their way to victory

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN PRAIA D'EL REY, PORTUGAL

THE Battle of the Sexes turned out to be less a contest more a war of words. The Seniors, captained by Tommy Horton, ran away with it over this outstanding new links course, winning the third day's singles against the women professionals of Europe by 5-4 and thus the inaugural European Cup 13-7.

When men play golf against women, the key question is how much of an advantage from the tees the men should concede to make it a test of skill and not strength. Determining this is every bit as difficult coming up with a satisfactory solution to some centuries-old religious dispute.

But in the five fourballs, on Saturday, the event's officials were at fault. The women needed more of an advantage at this form of golf, particularly on a windy day. The women were well-beaten and to all intents and purposes the competition ended there and then.

At times the event resembled a nursery game. He who squealed loudest and longest won the day. It was the men after foursomes on Friday, the women after the fourballs on Saturday and there was kind of an eerie silence after the singles.

"Our tees are too far back," the men said on Friday evening, when the first day's five foursomes had ended level, 25-25. When the tees were adjusted for the second day's play, it was the women's turn to howl. "Our tees were not far enough forward," the women said after they had been whitewashed in the fourballs and the score had moved to 7-25.

"It is totally unfair," Marie Laure de Lorenzi, the women's captain, said, ignoring the fact that the men had actually played very well they were 34 under par for the 67 holes they played) and emphasizing, instead, how difficult the women found playing this course in a firm wind.

"The men had whined after the foursomes and got what they wanted. We played well today but it was totally demoralising."

The tees were adjusted for the third day's singles to give the women a further advantage, 330 yards on the front

nine and 235 on the homeward nine. "We were very conscious we did not want the men to run away with the first three matches," Keith Waters, a Senior tour official, said. For a while the men did not. Trish Johnson, who went from being two up after two holes, to two down after 11, finished like a champion against Antonio Garrido. A birdie on the 16th and another on the short 17th saw her home.

In the second match, David Creamer demonstrated an unusual technique on the greens. Instead of prostrating himself in front of de Lorenzi, which is what men are inclined to do to the former model, he lay on his back to look down the line of his putt when the green sloped away from him. This unusual technique was not enough for him to stop the women's captain winning 3 and 1.

Though Jim Rhodes lost to Karen Lunn by taking a five on the 18th and Brian Waites halved his match against Maria Hjorth, the men at the rear of the field were taking control. All four won.

Matches ended with a touching display of gallantry. The women would extend their hand, the men lean forward and peck them on the cheek. Such politesse was almost always followed by brave talk about gallantry and good fun. Only Kathryn Marshall, who scored a birdie on the 18th, having won the 17th, to beat Matsuo's Bernbridge, openly talked of the extra edge that existed in a match such as this.

"Any competitor does not want to lose," she said, "and this female-male thing makes it much more pleasurable to win. There was a wee bit of niggles but I suppose we'll all go out together tonight, have a few drinks and have a good time."

In victory, Horton presented the image of a relieved man. So, more than likely, would men the world over. One of his team had spoken to him about the unspeakable — losing to women. "You're playing with my pension," he had said to his captain. Horton concluded: "We were all very apprehensive."

Scores, page 43



Westwood keeps his eyes on the prize during his successful bid to retain the Sumitomo Visa Taiheiyo Masters title

Japan hails Europe's rising son

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN GOTEMBA, JAPAN

THE Japanese are calling Lee Westwood Europe's Tiger Woods, and the 24-year-old from Workington, who covets the world No 1 spot himself, did nothing to disabuse his hosts of that notion when he won one of their biggest tournaments, the Sumitomo Visa Taiheiyo Masters, for the second successive year at Gotemba, near Tokyo, yesterday.

It was Westwood's third individual victory of the season (he also played a full part in Europe's Ryder Cup win at Valderrama), his second in three weeks and probably the most impressive of his short career. Three shots clear after a third round of 65, seven under par, he withstood a strong initial challenge from Mark O'Meara, the United States Ryder Cup player, and a late charge from Japan's finest — the brothers Ozaki — to win by a shot.

The Englishman's final round of 71 gave him a total of 272, 16 under par and earned him 27 million yen. It sounds like a lot of money, and it is — it translates into something like £130,000 — and Westwood's earnings in the past three weeks are in the region of £440,000, taking his prize-money for the season to more than a £1 million so far. (He made a little dent in the total by buying his father, John, a Land Rover for his fiftieth birthday today.)

This week he is competing in the Dunlop Phoenix, Japan's richest tournament. Next week his world tour — he played in Spain, where he won the Volvo Masters, and in the US, where he was second in the Subaru Sarazen World Open, in the weeks preceding the Japan jaunt — takes him to Melbourne for the Holden Australian Open.

"If I win the next two tournaments, I might buy an aeroplane," Westwood, already a seasoned globetrotter, said.

It was far from a wishful thought, for he is a confident young man with a placid nature and takes everything as it comes. "You've got to take your chances when you're playing well and when you get on a roll, you can see yourself winning every week."

Yesterday, on another bleak day (the course is renowned for its views of Mount Fuji, but the landmark was shrouded in cloud all week) Westwood's serene temperament survived a severe test. He three-putted twice in the first five holes — at the 1st and the 5th — but reached the turn in level par thanks to birdies at the par fives, the 3rd and 6th.

O'Meara, meanwhile, had gone out in 33 and drew level, on 15 under par, with a birdie three at the 10th. The American lost his edge when he missed a two-foot birdie putt at the long 11th — where Westwood secured his four

to regain the lead — and he fell back completely with bogeys at the 15th and 16th, to leave the chase to the Ozaki boys.

Joe, a regular on the US Tour, had three successive birdie threes from the 14th to cut the lead to one, but dropped a shot at the short 17th and had to hole a 15 footer at the last for a birdie four to tie with Jumbo, Japan's No 1 and the world No 5, on 273, 15 under. Jumbo, ever the showman, had finished with an eagle three but Westwood was happy to settle for a conservative, if not quite palpitation-free, five.

The last putt was only two feet, but Westwood had missed one of the same length at the 14th, and that was on his mind. It was not lost on anyone else, either, for television re-ran the miss as the Englishman was surveying his putt on the 18th. But there was to be no reprise — and no reprieve for the Ozakis.

HOCKEY

Southgate put end to reign of cup-holders

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

SOUTHGATE moved into the fifth round of the English Hockey Association Cup yesterday with a comfortable 4-1 home win against Teddington, the holders. Reading, the runners-up last year, had better luck with a 4-2 victory at East Grinstead.

Duncan Woods converted two short corners for Southgate, whose sharper reactions inside the circle paid dividends. Teddington made little headway against the home side's sound defence and found their rhythm only in the last ten minutes. Further goals by Shaw and Carolan pushed Southgate into a 4-0 lead before Wallis scored from a short corner in the 66th minute for Teddington.

Reading took control of their match against East Grinstead in the second half after an interval score of 1-1. Ashdown scored two goals for Reading, one from a short corner, with Pearn and Wyatt, from a short corner, chipping in. Welsh, from a short corner, and Laird replied.

Canterbury recorded the day's highest score with a 10-5 victory at home against Guildford. Danny Laslett hitting the target four times for

Canterbury from open play. Other premier division clubs to survive were Cannock, Bessan, Doncaster, Hounslow, Old Loughtonians and Barford Tigers.

Hounslow were taken to extra time by Surbiton with the score at 2-2. Gillmon scoring for Hounslow in the 81st minute from a short corner for a 3-2 victory.

The only non-league clubs left in the competition are Chichester, Ipswich, Spalding and Old Cranleighans. Sheffield went down 4-3 to Chichester after Chichester had led 3-2 by half-time. The scorers for Chichester were Savory (two) and Lough, who converted two short corners. The goals for Sheffield were obtained by Cordun, Bradshaw from a short corner and McAuliffe.

Cannock's 3-3 draw against East Grinstead in the national league on Saturday kept them on top of the premier division, a point ahead of Southgate, who defeated Guildford 4-0. Simons scored twice for Southgate, with Attala and Shaw adding to the score. Bhatti saved East Grinstead from defeat at home with an equalising goal two minutes before the end.

Ipswich bow out

SUTTON COLDFIELD made amends for their dismal display in front of goal in their 2-1 defeat by Ipswich in the premier division on Saturday with a 3-0 win over the Suffolk team in the third round of the EHA Cup yesterday (Cathy Harris writes).

The league result keeps Ipswich in second place in the table behind the unbeaten champions and title favourites, Slough, who swept to a 6-3 victory against Trojans. "Our season is effectively over because we have very little realistic chance of defeating Slough," Donna Mills, the Ipswich manager, said. "We have a growing list of injuries and are just hoping to have 11 fit players for Saturday's game against them. Our backs are against the wall."

Determined to improve their lowly league position, Sutton paid a heavy price after Charlotte Merrett missed two first-half opportunities, and Louisa Turney

blundered three times in a five-minute spell after the break, against Ipswich. Jane Sibusmuth levelled after Tracy Fry opened the scoring from a 24th-minute penalty corner, before Sarah Bamfield finished in style.

Selling on their opportunities in the cup match, Sutton booked their place in the fourth round with a much-improved performance. Nicky Hickson set them on their way in the seventh minute, before Sixsmith and Turney took the game beyond Ipswich.

Slough romped home 9-0 against Sherwood but High-town, the holders, were taken to a penalty shoot-out by non-league Hampstead and Westminster after drawing 1-1. Kate Walsh, Tina Cullen, who hit the equaliser, and Fiona Lee all scored from the spot to put the Merseysiders through.

Results, page 43

CRICKET: PAKISTAN'S EMERGING TALENTS MAKE THEM SLIGHT FAVOURITES TO BEAT WEST INDIES

Wasim's return should tilt Test balance

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

TWO teams with a sense of mission begin the Test match that starts today in this frontier city close to the Khyber Pass. Pakistan have just been beaten at home by South Africa. West Indies want to amend the widely held view that the modern game is passing them by. Failure for either could have significant consequences.

Having inspected a dry, cracked pitch that is expected to offer more sooner rather than later, both sides will give Test debuts to slow bowlers. West Indies will rely on Rawl Lewis, a 23-year-old leg spinner from the Windward Islands, to support the familiar pace team of Walsh, Ambrose and Bishop. Pakistan have promoted a local off spinner, Arshad Khan, who plays ahead of Saqlain Mushtaq in the first game of a three-match series.

Wasim Akram, restored to the captaincy now that his injured shoulder has healed, explained that Saqlain, who played for Surrey in the county championship in the summer, had mislaid his best form against South Africa. Arshad, at 26 a veteran by Pakistan standards, partners Mushtaq Ahmed in an attack that is also without Waqar Younis.

Shahid Nazir is preferred to Waqar, whose absence is accounted for by the

long-standing foot injury that has clipped two yards off his fastest pace and by the flatness of the pitch. Haroon Rashid, the team manager, thought it best to conserve the bowler's fitness for the subsequent Tests in Rawalpindi and Karachi, where he hoped the pitches would be livelier.

Pakistan have never been short of talented young players but, at the moment, they appear to have an embarrassment of riches. In order to accommodate Aamir Sohail, who moves up to his customary opener's position, they have left out Ali Naqvi, who, three Tests ago, made a century on his debut. Nor is there room for Hasan Raza, the wonder boy, last year, or Shahid Afridi, who has blotted his copybook by going off to play in Bangladesh without the board's consent.

It is never easy to gauge the mood of the Pakistan team. To infer too much from the recent defeat against South Africa and their indifferent form in the one-day competition that followed would be erroneous. They remain a side chock-full of brilliant players and, now that Wasim is back to apply a steady hand on the tiller, they must be favoured to beat West Indies.

This is a busy winter of international cricket for Pakistan, who play fewer Test matches than the other established nations. In the new year they go



Wasim: restored to captaincy

to South Africa for three more Tests and, if Wasim is not to be a victim of pass-the-parcel, the game by which this country tends to appoint its captains, his men really need to win this series.

There is a smell of decay about their opponents. Clive Lloyd, the team manager, is entitled to point out that they have lost only one series away from the Caribbean in the past 17

years, but this side has been in decline for at least three years, sustained in that time by the astonishing tenacity of Walsh and Ambrose and the sporadic brilliance of Lara.

It is asking a lot of young Lewis to pitch him in for a debut in conditions that are as foreign to these players as they could possibly be. When they ruled the roost with their divisions of fast bowlers, West Indies abandoned the art of spin bowling as a means of winning matches. Now they are struggling to find fast bowlers of the necessary quality.

Walsh, 35, and Ambrose, a year junior, are approaching the end of their distinguished Test careers. They have taken 645 wickets between them and have hardly missed a match in the course of their labours. Bishop, deprived by injury of the chance to become truly great, has also turned 30. Before long, it seems, Rose and Dillon may be leading the attack. It does not sound a frightening prospect.

Campbell and Stuart Williams retain their places at the top of the order, despite a claim by the uncapped Philo Wallace, who made a career-best 142 against an Invitation XI in Rawalpindi last week. There is an English presence in Peshawar. David Shepherd is standing as the neutral umpire and Raman Subba Row is the match referee.

Headache for Higgins as Ponting threatens upset

By PHIL YATES

JOHN HIGGINS today requires the strongest fightback of his short but highly successful professional career in order to prevent the most surprising result of the Nineties at the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship in Preston.

After a session he would prefer to forget, Higgins, edged out 10-9 by Stephen Hendry in the final last year, is trailing Gary Ponting, of Bristol, 7-1 and is within two frames of elimination.

Runner-up in the Grand Prix last month and for some time Hendry's closest pursuer in the world rankings, Higgins has rarely performed less effectively. Ponting, the world No 84, did nothing particularly special, but pulled away steadily.

A clearance of 42 enabled Higgins to steal the sixth frame on the pink, but he could not generate any momentum. Already frustrated by his form, the Scot had no luck in the closing frame of the

afternoon when he went in-off after potting the brown and Ponting cleared up.

Ponting qualified for the final televised stages of the 1994 World Championship as a rookie, but, prone to migraines, he has made little impact since. Before this tournament, he had failed to win a match this season.

Hendry's 5-2 defeat by Tai Pichit, an amateur wild-card entry, in the first round of the 1994 Thailand Open, is generally regarded as the biggest upset of the decade, but unless Higgins can win eight of the remaining nine frames, that will be overtaken.

Higgins rallied from a 6-1 deficit to beat Tony Drago 9-8 12 months ago, but an immeasurable improvement will be needed to block Ponting's path into the last 32.

On the eve of the World Championship this year, Ken Doherty was criticised publicly by Ian Doyle, his manager,

as "unprofessional". It was the motivational prod the Irishman required and he went on to capture the title.

Fast forward six months and again Doherty has discovered a timely source of inspiration as he attempts to join Steve Davis, John Parrott and Hendry as the only player to complete the World and UK Championship double in the same year.

To say Doherty was annoyed by the bookmakers installing him as 20-1 outsider would be an exaggeration. Nevertheless, he is justified in believing his achievement at the Crucible has been undervalued and is determined to prove them wrong.

"To make me 20-1 is an absolute joke," Doherty, who reached the third round on Saturday with a 9-3 victory over Karl Broughn, said. "I'm not a gambler myself, but I know good value when I see it and I'm sure a few folks back home will take advantage".

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JAMAICA

Broadcasters strive to get on rugby wavelength

According to Mark Durden-Smith, this was phase one of Mission Southern Hemisphere. For Clive Woodward, it was phase one of Mission Rebuild. And, for BSkyB, it was phase one of let's-make-this-as-much-like-Grandstand-as-we-possibly-can.

It was an uncharacteristically unadventurous approach by the satellite broadcaster, but then rugby has always been a conservative game. Investing in a satellite dish was considered enough of a shock to be going on with.

The plan now is to make England rugby fans feel at home as quickly as possible. Familiarity came in the form of Nick Farr-Jones, the former Australia captain, whose technical analysis has been one of the cornerstones of the BBC's five nations' coverage in the past few seasons, and Bill Beaumont, whose broadcasting career looked to have come to an end last season along with the BBC's contract.

As for gently reminding people that England's home internationals are now on satellite, I can't think of a better way than with four games against the three best sides in the world over successive weekends.

Sky's studio foursome was completed by some home-grown talent. Durden-Smith, who with half a season presenting club rugby behind him is already a competent anchor man, and Stuart Barnes, its fast-talking expert

summariser. The effect was good, but it could have been better.

What it lacked was a representative from the Will Carling glory years, years that changed the public perception of English rugby forever by making it both glamorous and fashionable. Carling himself was the obvious choice, so obvious that ITV had snapped him up to front their recorded coverage, which, thanks to the delayed kick-off at Twickenham, got underway barely 15 minutes after the final whistle had blown.

On the BBC, it was a position that the articulate Rob Andrew made his own, so there was a certain justice in watching Barnes, his perennial understudy, seeking to do



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

the same on Sky. But, for all his caption reading "England 84-93", you don't have to be a rugby historian to know that's not quite the whole story.

If suggesting Barnes make way again sounds harsh, it isn't, for two reasons. First, Barnes's successful media career is founded on his maverick reputation, the angry outsider — that's why Sky chose him in the first place for their club coverage. Only for

internationals does he need to make way for somebody who was an automatic first choice — an Andrew, an Underwood, a Moore.

The second reason why Barnes could painlessly vacate a studio chair is that he wouldn't have to move very far. His double-handed commentary with the enjoyably reliable Miles Harrison may lack the poetry of Bill McLaren but, in terms of

accuracy and instant analysis, it's top notch. Barnes is also the natural first choice for perhaps the main thing lacking from Saturday's build-up, a recorded, set-piece interview with Clive Woodward, the new England coach. Graham Simmons, Sky's roving reporter, did well with a couple of hastily grabbed minutes, but England's first game under its new coach needed something more formal to set the scene.

But, if Sky's studio panel needs a bit of gentle retraining, then ITV's needed a serious rethink. Having spent all its money on Carling, his studio guests were Bob Dwyer and Damian Hopley. These are guests for rugby's cognoscenti, not for mass-market terrestrial television. Ironically, the

obvious house-wife's choice candidate appeared the other side of the early evening news when Jeremy Guscott presented *Gladiators*.

Carling himself was fine — indeed, the biggest challenge he seemed to face was squeezing those famously arrogant features into something resembling a welcoming smile. Bit more practice and he might actually manage it.

For the match itself, ITV fielded probably the strongest of its commentary teams from the last World Cup, John Taylor and Steve Smith. The pictures were exactly the same as Sky's, except for the fact that its replays didn't make that maddening "whoosh, whoosh" noise.

More than once, Sky had reason to regret its passion for replays. In the first half, a quickly-taken penalty was dangerously missed, while, in the second, the director seemed to be under the illusion that the ball was immediately "dead" after a missed penalty kick.

But, all in all, it was a good weekend for rugby on television. Sky got its feet under the table at Twickenham, ITV ensured that the next World Cup won't come as quite the culture shock the last did and the BBC showed, if not entirely convincingly with live coverage of the one-sided encounters between Ireland and the All Blacks and Wales versus Tonga, that there is life after England. It, too, has better weekends to come.

Streets of Dublin paved with qualified optimism and peculiar logic on day of international setbacks

Irish take defeats in their stride

A fine, cautious distinction was current everywhere in Dublin on Saturday. "More hopeful than optimistic" was how it went. Very Irish, you might think, but in the circumstances it made good sense. Ireland were playing the All Blacks in the afternoon at Lansdowne Road (chance of winning: nil), with a last-ditch football World Cup qualifier against Belgium in Brussels in the evening.

"Judgment Day", the newspapers rather recklessly called it. But only a fool would pin too much on the outcome of a day so obviously loaded against the green-shirted from the start. "Give 'em lachry," exhorted one paper midweek. But, to reflect the real mood, it might have added, in smaller letters, "Or give it a try, anyway."

I was optimistic myself. But that was before I started to read about the Ireland team, and was obliged to fall in with the thumbs-down realists. Because, it turns out, Jack Charlton led a stout-hearted team to undreamt-of international honours, things have changed recently, and nobody mentions Macedonia around here unless they're ordering a fruit salad.

The trouble is linked to demography. By some accident of births, deaths and retirements, Mick McCarthy's side is a spatchcock of retirement-ready, battle-scarred gaffers and demoralised babes-in-arms, with scarcely an able-bodied, first-team footballer.

Moreover, two weeks previously, in the home leg against Belgium, the boys in green had performed so badly that they had been lucky to escape with a 1-1 draw. Luc Nilis wrought havoc, and McCarthy's future as manager was called into question.

"Bring back Jack," a woman at the bus stop said on Friday. "Joe Kinnear's your man," a bloke in O'Neills, a Dublin pub, said

LYNNE TRUSS



before the match on Saturday. Although the bloke was so drunk he couldn't work out how to dismount a bar stool, that sounded rather astute.

Nevertheless, come on, you boys in green. Forget the rugby result. Forget this Nilis chap. This isn't a funeral. Ask yourself, are you really scared of Belgium? Personally, I didn't really understand why Belgium would be such a terrifying opponent, in any case. People don't generally quake at the name. True, Jean-Claude van Damme is a Belgian, but then so was that gentle fellow, René Magritte. Just imagine the Belgians all playing with tubas on their heads. That ought to help, surely.

Going out on the Guinness in Dublin after a rugby international, when 49,000 disgruntled people might have the same idea, would be against my natural instinct ordinarily, so I'm ashamed to say I made Simon Barnes, my colleague at *The Times*, come with me to watch the footie on television in



Enthusiastic supporters in Dublin are still able to raise a glass and a smile, despite witnessing defeats for the Ireland rugby union and football teams

O'Neills. This was rather useful as he can quote James Joyce in big chunks.

Our position under a staircase started out as a fine observational place, but became more problematical as the evening progressed, and the hundreds drinking Guinness and shouting at the tops of their voices in this heating, hot pub turned to thousands. We could always see the screen, but the trouble is that, the more you retreat under a staircase, the more you contort your neck and the more you bang your head every time something exciting happens.

And the game really was exciting — far better, by all accounts, than the first leg. Leaving aside Belgium's first goal (too painful),

there was the excitement when the ref didn't give a penalty against Ireland (tee-hee), the considerable head-banging burst of joy when Ray Houghton equalised ten minutes into the second half; and then the dubious excitement when the ref gave a throw-in to the wrong bloke, leading to Belgium's second goal in the 68th minute — an elegant, not-to-say-miraculous, back-to-the-goal, over-the-shoulder chip by Mike Verstraeten that defused Shay Given and left a chance for Nilis to score again.

At this point, the reaction of the drinkers diverged from expectation, becoming oddly familiar from Irish beer commercials. Because, for heaven's sake, like the Murphy's, at 2-1 down, they

weren't bitter. "No, this is good, Belgium's goal is good for us," a bloke to our left reasoned. "It will make us score again, and then we'll win." He and his mates were having a seminar about the away-goals rule and how it was now in their favour.

Sports fans do this the world over — explain the scoring to each other. It's sweet. On Saturday night, of course, the aggregate system needed thinking about, because a Belgium goal was now worth less than an Ireland goal. Aha. Right. So, in a funny sort of way, by scoring that second goal (and taking the lead), Belgium had virtually handed the game over to

Ireland. I chipped in at this point. "And the thing is, the Belgians can't score again in Ireland, can they?" "Well," he said, "only on their holidays, but that wouldn't count."

Sadly, Belgium's kind-hearted strategy failed in the end, and Ireland did not give them any further luck to speak of. Even when David Connolly was sent off, and Simon reasonably asserted, "down to ten men; that will make them do it," the Irish players failed to take their cue, and suddenly it was all over. The dream had died, and all that.

False dawns had given way to black days. Another pint, Simon? Do that James Joyce thing again. Remind me how you get off this

bar stool. All that. Naturally, one was very sad (and a bit drunk), although I couldn't help thinking of a bloke who told me, in apparent seriousness, that qualifying for the World Cup would just bring a lot of tension to next summer, you know?

"That's a novel way of looking at it," I said. But it's odd: before Saturday, I got the feeling the Irish were fed up with this World Cup already, and weren't unhappy to be spared the extra misery of competing in the finals. Another two years, however, and they'll be ready to try to qualify for the 2000 European championship. Let's just hope that Ireland's own version of McCarthyism doesn't witch-hunt McCarthy before then.

SPORTS LETTERS

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

Ethics and Formula One

From Mr Nick Bittel

Sir, In all the furore over why the Government took the decision to exempt motor racing from the ban on tobacco sponsorship the actual decision seems to have been largely ignored.

Sport is not merely about employment or foreign earnings. Sport has the ability to inspire. At its best, sport is the stuff of souls. We have a duty as guardians of sport not just to the bottom line but also to those who look to sport for their inspiration.

Sport should stand up clearly and say that accepting tobacco sponsorship is an abrogation of this duty.

Yours faithfully,
NICK BITTEL,
(Chief Executive,
London Marathon),
PO Box 1234, London SE1.
office@mbg.co.uk

From Mr Iain Quick

Sir, Jacques Villeneuve, within seconds of a World Championship and with numerous wins, makes way for another driver to win his first grand prix race.

Sporting, considerate, mature, tactically wise? Not a bit of it. That he was alleged to

have been ordered to do so by his team brings your opprobrium heaped upon him, them and the Formula One organisers.

Am I missing something? Yours faithfully,
IAIN QUICK,
Brook Cottage,
Pork Lane,
Gt Holland,
Essex.

From Mr Philip Baker

Sir, A lifelong enthusiast for motor sport in most of its guises, I have been following the unfolding of the Schumacher debacle with growing dismay.

It became apparent many years ago that Formula One, the supposed pinnacle of the sport, had ceased to be a sport at all, but what saddens me now is that it can no longer be bothered to pretend.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP BAKER,
19 Marley Close,
Addlestone,
Surrey.

From Mr Robin Beare

Sir, The likelihood of collusion between Formula One Teams and their drivers, together seeking to fix the result of a grand prix race (Report, November 10), would be much reduced if not eliminated were the Formula One authorities completely to ban radio com-

Blowing the whistle on Premiership referees

From Mr W. Benjamin

Sir, I read Lynne Truss's articles on referees (November 1 and 3) with interest but I am afraid that I disagree with her conclusions.

When did she last see a football match which was not marred in some way or other by the decisions of the officials in charge? Frank Leboeuf was a little nearer the mark (November 1) but I do not think things will or can improve until all the Premiership managers get together and insist that offending referees are charged by the FA with bringing the game into disrepute — for that is what they are doing, especially when a game is televised and their incompetence, inconsistency and in some cases apparent bias are there for all to see.

Referees should have to justify their decision: in front of a panel consisting of representatives from the FA management and players and, if the match was televised, then in front of the

viewing public. Only when referees can be seen to be consistent and unbiased will they get the respect that they keep on talking about.

Yours faithfully,
W BENJAMIN,
7 Bramford Court, High Street, Southgate, London.

From Mr R. Granville

Sir, In Michael Henderson's report of the Bolton-Liverpool game, he refers to referees as having to do their job "for petrol money and a shandy". In fact, Premiership referees get £375 a match plus travel and food expenses. So for an afternoon's work they receive as much as many people in this country receive for working all week.

Yours sincerely,
R GRANVILLE,
70 Compton Road, Hayes, Middlesex.

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Yours sincerely,
R GRANVILLE,
70 Compton Road, Hayes, Middlesex.

From Mrs Sylvia Disley

Sir, I was interested to read Mrs Jan Hartshorn's comments (Sports Letters, November 10) describing Michael Schumacher's courtesy and politeness when dealing with waiters in the hotel where she worked. However, those waiters should remember that they were not trying to overtake Schumacher in a Formula One race.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA DISLEY,
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton, Middlesex.

From Mr David Simpson

Sir, The sooner the pit lane circus that passes as Formula One carries out its threat to disappear to the Far East in a cloud of tyre and cigarette smoke the better for motor sport.

Cheating on the track and fixing the results are incompatible with the concepts of fair play and integrity which legitimise sporting achievement.

DAVID SIMPSON,
10 Ruscombe Gardens,
Datchet,
Berkshire.

From Mr Robert Lefroy

Sir, Ferrari did not deserve the 1997 championship as it demonstrated a lamentable lack of planning.

True professionals would follow the lead of American football and use blockers to take the opposition out, ensuring that Schumacher had an untroubled run to the line.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LEFROY,
Business Money Publications,
Strode House,
Street, Somerset.

From Mr David Eves

Sir, Is Michael Schumacher related to Harald Schumacher, the former West German goalkeeper, who committed the most horrendous foul on Patric Batistion in the World Cup semi-final in Seville in 1982 to prevent France reaching the final, but was not even shown a yellow card, let alone a red one? Was that also an "accident"?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID EVES,
Green Street, St Helier,
Jersey, Channel Islands.

vent pupils from playing football for their school teams, seriously damaging inter-school sports. The amount of training and travelling time will also have a detrimental effect on their education.

Education should not, and must not, take second place to apparent attempts by some wealthy clubs to secure talent for themselves. Few of the pupils selected will make it as professionals. Those who do not will have their education disrupted and could miss out on important qualifications.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY CARVER,
(PAT Senior Professional Officer),
2 St James' Court,
Friar Gate, Derby.

Albatross award

From Mr M. Molony

Sir, Is there is an honour bestowed on golfers obtaining an albatross? I know of the Hole-In-One Society and the Fether Club but not of an Albatross Club. Recently a junior member at my club, Leatherhead, shot a two at our first hole — par five — and incidentally shot a three on our 16th — par five.

Yours faithfully,
M. MOLONY,
18 Carew Court,
Basinghall Gardens,
Sutton, Surrey.

This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow**
Martina Hingis aims to finish the tennis year in style at the Chase Championship. Alix Ramsay reports from New York.

■ **Wednesday**
Having beaten Leicester and Sheffield Wednesday Grimsby continue their Coca-Cola Cup campaign at Liverpool.

■ **Thursday**
Which of six short-listed sports books will win the William Hill award for 1997?

■ **Saturday**
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match. Oliver Holt, Steve McManaman and Danny Baker.

THE TIMES

Under the skin of sport

No firm favourites as 14 teams tee off at La Manga

By MEL WEBB

THE DIVERSITY of the winning teams in the regional final series of the leading corporate golf tournament in the British Isles knocked the stuffing out of the Orwellian assertion that all are created equal, but some are more equal than others.

A total of 1,404 amateur golfers entered *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge. Representing 351 teams, they took part in the 14-event qualifying competition for the right to play in the national final, in Spain this week.

When they step on to the first tee on the South Course at La Manga on Thursday for the first of two rounds, it will not matter if they are representing small, local firms or huge, multinational concerns.

The Challenge is designed to be all things to all corporate entities. If the regional finals are an indicator, that aim was realised brilliantly last month.

For instance, the Northern England regional final at Sleaford in October was won by Derry Landscapes and Garden Design, Leeds-based water garden designers and builders. Not even Peter Jenson, the firm's owner and captain of its team, would claim that his company was in the same financial league as Citibank, the New York-based banking giant, who won the Central Home Counties event at Duke's Dene. But, when the going gets tough in La Manga, global status will count for nothing.

Therein, perhaps, lies one of the enduring charms of this competition and within it, too, one of the great strengths of the game itself. In golf, all truly are equal.

In no other game can the rabbit give the tiger a decent



match, thanks to the wonders of the handicap system. At La Manga there will be 34-handicappers and low single-figure men, and the modest performer is just as likely to be a member of the winning team as the highly talented one.

The handicap allowance for the Challenge was changed this year from seven-eighths to three-quarters of handicap. This has produced closer finishes and made scores tougher to acquire as well as ending the anomalous granting of two shots on certain holes to high-handicap players. This was a good, positive step; the competition is the better for it.

The practice of putting the four players in each team out

together in the regional finals was also abandoned in favour of splitting teams into two two-balls who played with two players from other teams. The main reason for the change was to put the scores of each team above suspicion because players' scores would be recorded by the opposition.

There was another, unexpected, but nonetheless welcome, spin-off from that simple move. More than 90 per cent of the players welcomed the change, not only for obvious reasons, but also because the feeling was that the split forced each player to concentrate even more on his own game.

There could be no let-up — when you do not know what your team-mates scored on a given hole, it makes you think that little bit harder, stretches your own resolve by another notch. It was another improvement; the change is sure to become a permanent feature of the competition.

The Challenge has set a standard during the past five years to which others aspire, and part of that standard lies in the quality of the regional final venues. Some of the finest courses in the British Isles were visited, including, for the first time, the K Club, near Dublin, which is sure to be among the frontrunners to be the chosen venue when the Ryder Cup goes to Ireland in 2005.

Only one of the magnificent 14 teams will be making a return visit to La Manga: two members of the Drakes Group team, winners at Brickett Hall, represented the company there in 1995. Their small local knowledge will be a potent weapon.

Or, perhaps, no use at all. They have a chance to be more equal than the others — only time will tell.



The Ireland regional final was held at the K Club, near Dublin, a possible venue for the Ryder Cup in 2005



Revised second round draw

to be played on or before DECEMBER 13, 1997

Burton v Nottingham Forest	Blackpool v Everton
Leicester v Liverpool	Bury
v Peterborough or Doncaster	Aston Villa or Notts County
v Walsley	Bradford v Bolton
Shrewsbury	v Stoke or Wolverhampton
Sheffield Utd v Tranmere	Sunderland v Crewe
Leeds v Oldham	York v Middlesbrough
West Bromwich	v Manchester City
Newcastle v Burnley	Blackburn v Manchester Utd
Walsley and Harslem or	Rushden and Diamonds
v Charlton	Southampton v Histon
West Ham v Millwall	Torquay or Leyton Orient
v Bristol City	Watford
v Croydon or Northampton	Norwich v Crystal Palace
Enfield	v Swindon or Bristol Rovers
Chelsea v Wimbledon	Portsmouth
v Exeter and Belvedere	Ipswich
v Crawley or Great Wakering	Svensea or Bedford
v Brentford	Exeter v Arsenal
Queens Park Rangers	v Southend
Tottenham v Reading	Coventry v Luton
Plymouth v Fulham	Wycombe v Welling or Dulwich
Woking or Brighton	v Gillingham

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

Christmas CDs—£1.98 each



Starting today, *The Times* launches its Christmas collection of traditional carols and music that captures the mood of the festive season. There are five CDs at only £1.98 each (£2.98 in Eire and EC). When you buy all five, you are given the sixth, highlights from Handel's *Messiah*, FREE.

The free CD is performed by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Scottish Philharmonic Singers. Excerpts include Hallelujah (chorus), Worthy Is The Lamb That Was Slain (chorus), Comfort Ye My People (recit) and The Trumpet Shall Sound (air).

Every day this week we will feature a different title from the set. The first is: *Christmas with St Paul's Cathedral Choir*, accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under conductor John Scott. They perform a programme of 13 familiar and lesser known carols (listed below).

With 75 tracks adding up to almost five hours of music, the six CDs provide the perfect background music for your seasonal celebrations.

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CHANGING TIMES

"Now all I want is a single board and a wide open mountain" — Victoria Walker discovers snowboarding



Regular or goofy? Victoria Walker stands on the board (which she describes as a "small ironing board") at a 90 degree angle to the front. The leading leg is the one closest to the front. Left-footed riders are called regular and right-footed, goofy

It simply takes great attitude

Snowboarding takes attitude. With his fashionable sideburns and neatly trimmed goatee, my instructor at the Tamworth Snowdome, John Sewell, oozed it. He advocated it, too: "The main thing is a positive attitude. It will not work for you if you are tense. You must have confidence in yourself."

This wasn't just bravado. Like surfing or skiing, the key to success is balance. Good posture is paramount; if you are tense and lean too far forward or too far back (in the mistaken belief that the closer you get to the ground, the less it will hurt if you fall), you will tumble.

Snowboards are about a foot across, and when stood on end should reach somewhere between your chest and nose.

Longer boards tend to be harder to manoeuvre for novices. Unlike a skier, the snowboarder stands on the board at a 90 degree angle to the front. The leading leg is the one closest to the front of the board. Left-footed people are called regular and, for reasons quite beyond me, right-footed riders are called goofy. (I feel a little sensitive about these terms and am not saying if I am right or left-footed.)

Curiously enough, before standing me on what I thought resembled a small ironing board, Sewell informed me that my first lesson was to involve some role reversal — I was to be the instructor guiding him down the slope. After my initial surprise, I saw that he wanted me to walk with him so that I could clearly see what he expected me to do.



Holding on to Sewell's hands, I walked in front of him as he demonstrated how to catch and release the toe edge of his board in the snow. This is called a side-slip. The board remains square to the slope, with the rider facing downhill. Sewell then repeated this exercise facing up the slope and

digging with his heel edge. Although this felt a little strange initially, it was quite an easy technique to master, simply involving raising toes or heels.

The second task I was to learn was the aptly named "falling-leaf". The descent of the slope by the rider is similar to that of an autumn leaf as it falls from a tree and glides to the ground in a gentle zigzag pattern. Traversing the slope with pressure on either my toe or heel edge I made my hesitant, slow way back and forth down the hill.

The wonderful thing was that after only ten minutes I was, effectively, snowboarding. Novice skiers must endure days on end of mastering technical skills such as the "snowplough" before graduating on to "parallels". But you

can't do snowploughs on a single board. So although there is much to learn and leading boarders can perform breathtaking feats, it did not seem to me as technically demanding as skiing.

Sewell then taught me how to traverse the breadth of the 30-metre slope before gently nudging me into a "straight" — facing directly downhill rather than meandering from side-to-side. In the sport's organic terminology these techniques are linked to form "garlands".

After an hour-long lesson it would be wrong to say that I could snowboard — I had still to master turns, for example, but I felt I was well on the way. Skiing, I have decided, is for foot-loosers. For me, all I want is a single board and a wide open mountain. It appears I am not alone with such sentiments. "I will never go back to skiing," said Drew Roberts, 22, who has been snowboarding for almost three years.

Simon Smith is 25 and has been skiing for ten years. Two months ago he tried snowboarding for the first time and is hooked. "I found it quite easy to make the change from skiing to boarding," he said. "I was getting bored with skiing



For the learner, snowboarding is not as demanding as skiing

and wanted to try something new."

One of the most surprising things about snowboarding is just how civilised the kit is. The board is easy to carry. After having proved myself a

menace to pedestrians every time I carried skis, this was a joy to discover. Carrying one plank instead of two made a world of difference, and because it was shorter, I found I could hook it under my arm

just like a commuter carrying a rolled-up copy of *The Times* — well almost.

The boots, too, bear more resemblance to my favourite pair of walking boots than the hard and inflexible ski-boots. Padded, warm, with a well-marked tread and lace-ups, the boots clip into fixings attached to the board. I found I was comfortable walking both on snow and indoors with none of the ridiculous slow-motion "moonwalking" that ski-boots impose.

The clothing should keep you warm and dry, so gloves, waterproof, padded trousers and jackets are a must. The strength of the snowboarding culture means that there is a wealth of fashionable gear. Many of these snowboarding labels are leading the way in ski-wear design. The clothing I wore came from Snowboard Asylum, though normal ski-gear is also fine for snowboarding. Salopettes with reinforced knees and bottoms are a good idea because they tend to get more wear and tear. Many snowboarders also like to wear longer jackets to ensure their bottoms stay warm and dry.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Deception is one of the hardest parts of the game, particularly when defending, as there is always the risk that partner will be more misled than declarer. One of the best times to try to mislead declarer is when you have all of the defensive assets. Today's hand is taken from a new book, *Expert Defence*, by Raymond Brock, a follow-on from his earlier *Step by Step: Planning the Defence*.

Dealer South	East-West game	IMPs
♠ 10 9 3 2 ♥ Q 9 6 5 ♦ 5 ♣ AK 10 7 5 ♥ K ♦ 10 8 4 ♣ Q 9 4 2	♠ N ♥ E ♦ S ♣ W	♠ 9 3 2 ♥ 10 9 3 2 ♦ Q 9 6 5 ♣ 5 ♠ 9 3 2 ♥ 10 9 3 2 ♦ Q 9 6 5 ♣ 5

Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: five of spades.

This deal occurred in the final of the 1995 World Junior Championship. The British declarer in the Closed Room played in Four Hearts. He lost two top spades and a spade ruff and then had no reason not to take the heart finesse, and thus went one down.

In the Open Room the New Zealanders reached Three No-Trumps and it looked to the VuGraph audience that the declarer would have to succeed. With the defenders threatening to take four spade tricks as soon as they got the lead he would have no option but to play both his long suits from the top and when the king of hearts dropped he would have ten tricks.

However, Justin Hackett found the excellent opening lead of the five of spades (systemically fourth best). As that was the lowest spade

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

True Class
Tournament organisers at the Wrexham grandmaster international were most fortunate in attracting the Russian grandmaster Mark Taimanov to their competition. Considered one of the great powers of Soviet chess in the 1950s, Taimanov has always excelled in quite sight of the board and in the grand scope of his strategic perception.

Taimanov is still active and a fine game from his hands has all the elegance of a chess masterclass.

White: Eric Van den Doel
Black: Mark Taimanov
Owens Corning, Wrexham 1997

Sicilian Defence

1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	c6
3 d3	Nc6
4 g3	Nf6
5 Bg2	d6
6 d4	Be7
7 Re1	O-O
8 c3	Rd8
9 Nc2	Bf8
10 d4	exd4
11 cxd4	Nd7
12 Nf1	Bd7
13 Na3	Bc7
14 b3	a4
15 a3	Na7
16 b4	a5
17 d5	Bb6
18 Bb2	Bc7
19 Na2	Qd7
20 N4	Qf6
21 Qf3	Rac8
22 h4	Rc7
23 Kf2	Qf7
24 Rf1	Rc8
25 Rg2	Rc7
26 Nb1	Bd7
27 Nc3	Nb5
28 Nd5	Bd6
29 Bh3	Bd7
30 Bf1	Qa8

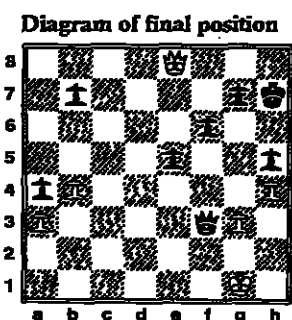


Diagram of final position

Hooqeeven
Another Russian veteran, the 76-year-old former world champion Vassily Smyslov, has also been active, on this occasion in Holland. At the Hooqeeven tournament first place was taken by Sutovski with 4/6, ahead of J Polgar and Van Wely both 3 and Smyslov 2. Although Smyslov found it difficult to compete with players approximately one third his age, he came close to beating Polgar and his performance maintained his current rating of 2480.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Skateboarders aiming higher and higher

By IVO TENNANT

According to those who have ridden the "vert ramp" and the street skate course, it is the most difficult of all sports to master. This is not officially recognised and it will never become an Olympic event. Yet for an exacting level of technique allied to sheer guts and gumption, skateboarding is regarded by its many participants as the new parallel.

What is often construed as no more than an irritating activity on pavements and footpaths by callow youths is, along with snowboarding, an increasingly attractive sport for young people. The Board X Festival '97, held in Battersea Park over the last three days and sponsored by *The Times*, attracted around 10,000 spectators. Many were novices who progress, in due course, on to the ski slopes.

It is more than 15 years since a bunch of surfers from California took their boards up a mountain and reckoned that coming down on them was more fun than sitting on a tea tray. Hence snowboarding was born. This has progressed to the point at which it will be included in the next Winter Olympics in Japan. Skateboarding is another matter. Indeed, there is no particular desire to have it classified as a recognised sport at all.

There are obvious similarities. Snowboarding is visible on mountain slopes all over the world; it is estimated that by the turn of the century there will be as many boarders as skiers. Some ski resorts do not permit them, owing to a perception that the activity is dangerous, but most of the participants, those in the 18-26 age range, do not concern themselves with that.



A competitor in last week's Board X Festival in London

As with skateboarding, there is an incessant desire to jump higher and higher. Rune Clifberg, from California, who is regarded as one of the best skaters in the world, demonstrated as much indoors when the outdoor competition at Battersea was postponed on Friday and again on Saturday owing to rain.

The popularity is such that courses are being built all over the country. Not the least of the attractions is a link to fashion (markedly casual), music and a relaxed lifestyle and jargon. A skateboard is still relatively cheap, even if a snowboard is not. Skiing, by contrast, is seen

by the organisers of the festival as an old-fashioned attraction for older people, requiring far too early a start.

Steve Bailey, a 23-year-old from Manchester, graduated from skateboarding to snowboarding and is a candidate for the British Winter Olympics team in Japan in the new year. "I will have to pay part of my passage to get out there and I reckon it will be a number of years before boarding becomes more popular than skiing," he said. "There is no funding as yet and the most I have ever won is £200. I have learned a lot by my mistakes, but the drug is to go on to bigger and bigger jumps all the time."

Don't let a lack of snow hold you back

By VICTORIA WALKER

YOU DO not have to invest in a board, all the gear and an expensive holiday in the Alps or the Rockies to try snowboarding. Many dry ski slopes offer snowboard lessons and hire out equipment. The British Snowboarding Association (BSA) is the official governing body and holds details on snowboarding facilities throughout Britain.

Prices vary, but tend to be reasonable. Southampton Ski & Snowboard Centre offers a two-day beginners' course for £40. Experienced riders can use the slope for £6.30 an hour and hire boards for an additional £2.

At Tamworth Snowdome, where I had my first lesson, you can learn on man-made snow from £22.50 an hour for adults and £17.50 for children (non-members) or £15.75 an hour for adults and £12.25 for children (members). This includes the hire of the board and boots.

Aviemore has expansive ski and snowboard runs and a snowboard school providing instruction and equipment hire. A two-day beginner's package costs £70 and includes board hire, lift passes and four hours of lessons.

If you would prefer to look before you leap and simply watch an experienced rider in action, the Sprite Demo Tour is roaming British ski slopes with sponsored riders ready to offer advice to novices. Entry is free and the next date is at Warmwell, Dorset, on November 30.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

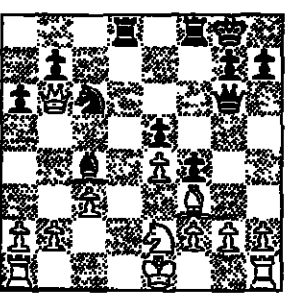
RIEUSSEC	HENDERSON GYRO
a. Sweet white wine	a. A naval gunnery aid
b. An 8th-century French Cardinal	b. A private savings bank
c. The Latvian Foreign Office	c. An early wingless aircraft
JOY GEAR	CACCIA
a. Light aircraft controls	a. Confit
b. A locomotive operating device	b. Fruit syrup
c. Masseuse's appliances	c. A musical form

Answers on page 47

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Miles Speelman, Islington Open 1970. Black has invested a pawn in an attempt to exploit White's slight lack of development. How did he now make the most of his chances?



Solution on page 47

SNOWBOARD CONTACTS

British Snowboarding Association, 1st floor, 4 Trinity Square, Llandudno, North Wales, LL30 2PY (01492 872540); Sprite Demo Tour (0171-336 6666); Southampton Ski & Snowboard Centre (01703 790970); Tamworth Snowdome (01827 679095); Cairngorm Ski Area, Aviemore (01479 561261).



Alex Rippon, one of hundreds of competitors taking part in a bit of cunning running at the British Schools Orienteering Championships yesterday. Photograph: Roy Riley

Orienteering finds its way at school

By IVO TENNANT

IF A treasure hunt with a map and a compass can be called a sport, it is one that will always have an appeal. Nine hundred and fifty schoolchildren, ranging in age from nine to 18, took part in the annual British Schools Orienteering Championships yesterday, testing their wits as much as their speed in an activity that is not known for nothing as cunning running.

Orienteering only took off in Britain in the 1960s and 200 schools now belong to the British Schools Orienteering Association (BSOA) — around 50 of which regard it as a prime sport. Indeed, this most healthy, cheap and fulfilling pursuit can now be studied within physical education at GCSE level.

It is also entirely safe: no one is lost for long, even in a dense thicket. Orienteers will say that they are temporarily unsure of their location

but never lost. Even so, it is a dispiriting experience for young children if they take a wrong turn at the beginning of the course, which is why immense care is taken over the drawing of the maps. Not until a boy or a girl is 13 or 14 is he or she expected to have a reasonable range of orienteering skills.

The main category in the championships, held this year near Winchester and sponsored by Hampshire County Council and Silva Compasses, was won for the third year running by Ulverston Victoria High School, a comprehensive in Cumbria. The PE teacher, Clare Evans, did not take up orienteering until 1988, and only the following year it was run as an out-of-school event. "It was a case of the blind leading the blind," she said. "That and some bullying."

Girls have taken to orienteering more readily than boys at Ulverston. "The children like the social side,"



Evans said. "They like sleeping in dormitories and making a weekend of an event. Ulverston cuts costs through its pupils bringing sleeping bags and spending a night or two in village halls. The teachers and any parents who come with them, too. Each pupil needs to come up with no more than £12 for a two-day trip."

Sixth formers were required to walk or run over 6.2km. "Hitting or throwing a ball is a generic skill," Ned Paul, the editor of *Compass Sport*, said. "Orienteering looks as if it is not, but at the age of eight it becomes so. A child never loses the ability to handle a map."

Out of 159 schools, only one was from London. Competitors came from as far afield as Scotland, Northern Ireland and, in particular, from within range of the Lake District, one of the most demanding, as well as scenic orienteering areas in the country. Cannock Chase, in Staffordshire, is also a particularly strong district.

Matt Crane, 16, who is at Walton High School, Stafford, has already taken part in three events in Scandinavia, the cradle of the sport. He finished in 29min 47sec yesterday. "This was an easy course," he said, "but it was still a challenge. You have to keep your brain in gear at the end

but, as you move up the age scales, you become more reliant on physical activity."

Another school that excels is King's, Macclesfield, in Cheshire. Richard Bradfield, 15, who has gone orienteering since he was 11, was attracted in part by the lure of the scenery. "I would go running if it was not so monotonous," he said. "This is sport for all ages, involves faster running and is a mental and physical pursuit rather than just one or the other."

Frances Stone, the chairman of BSOA, said: "Being part of the national curriculum for junior school children as well as the PE curriculum has given orienteering impetus and growth. A lot of schoolchildren are becoming aware of the sport internationally and hence it is becoming more popular. I see no reason why it should not continue to grow."

Results, page 43

PASSING THE BUCK

INSIDE THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

Henman cashes in on English good looks and playing skills

So, Tim Henman can earn £60,000 for playing just one tennis match in Hanover?

The ATP championships are one of the richest events in tennis, but it is still not bad for a day's work. In his convincing victory over Yevgeni Kafelnikov, Tim was effectively earning £6,000 for every game he played in the two-set match. In contrast, Tim will get just £9,000 for winning the national championships in Telford yesterday.

Tim must make a bit over the whole season?

Sure. The latest winnings will bring his total prize-money this year to around £500,000. But this is only around half the amount earned by Greg Rusedelski, who has doubled his career earnings in a season. His astonishing climb up the rankings since the US Open final — when he lost to Pat Rafter, of Australia — in September has been matched by the £700,000 or so he has earned in prize-money during the past few months.

Sounds like easy money to me; how can you sign up?

The top 50 are the only players to earn really serious money. You need to be in the top 250 to make a living wage from the game, while those ranked beyond 1,000 are making less than \$200 a season in prize-money. So, think twice before giving up that day job.

But can't you rake in the cash from off-court activities as well?

A rough rule of thumb is that players can double their on-court prize-money with sponsorship and other corporate link-ups, so Greg should be on course to make around £2 million next year — providing he retains his good form. At the moment, he has a deal with Nike, worth a relatively paltry £65,000, as well as smaller deals with Wilson rackets, Nestlé and Rado. But he has called in Ivan Blumberg, who sorted out the sponsorship side for Jimmy Connors and Stefan Edberg, to take advantage of his new-found earning power. As a top-five player, he will also pick up some extra perks, such as chauffeur-driven limousines and top-notch hotels wherever he appears in tournaments.

So Tim will not only be Britain's No 2 in ranking terms but also in earning power?

Not necessarily. Tim has used his English good looks to put together a series of sponsorship contracts worthy of anyone in the top five. Tim's endorsement portfolio includes a £7.5 million, long-term deal with Adidas and a £1.5 million contract with Slazenger, which also contains a £2 million bonus clause if he breaks into the top ten. He also has deals with Mercedes and Midland Bank to help to keep him in pocket. Greg's famous grin still cannot quite compete in the sponsorship stakes, although another year of outstanding on-court success should finally close the gap.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

House of Lords

Law Report November 17 1997

House of Lords

Whether actions are related

Sarrio SA v Kuwait Investment Authority

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde and Lord Saville

[Reasons November 13]

Whether actions were related for the purpose of article 22 of the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters signed at Brussels in 1968 and scheduled to the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982 should be determined in a broad common sense manner and no distinction was to be drawn between primary or essential and non-essential issues.

The House of Lords gave reasons for allowing, on October 30, an appeal by the defendants, Kuwait Investment Authority, from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Brooke) (1997) 1 Lloyd's Rep 113, who had allowed an appeal by the plaintiffs, Sarrio SA, from Mr Justice Mance (1996) 1 Lloyd's Rep 650 and lifted a stay imposed by him on the defendants' application for the plaintiffs' action against them to be struck out.

Article 22 of the Brussels Convention provides: "Where related actions are brought in the courts of different contracting states, any court other than the court first seized may, while the actions are pending at first instance, stay its proceedings."

"A court other than the court first seized may also, on the application of one of the parties, decline jurisdiction if the law of that court permits the consolidation of related actions and the court first seized has jurisdiction over both actions."

For the purposes of this article, actions are deemed to be related where they are so closely connected that it is expedient to hear and determine them together to avoid the risk of irreconcilable judgments resulting from separate proceedings."

Mr Nicholas Chambers, QC, Mr Andrew Popplewell, QC and Mr Paul Wright for the defendants; Mr Peter Goldsmith, QC, Mr Charles Hollander and Mr Adrian Briggs for the plaintiffs.

LORD SAVILLE said that in February 1993 the plaintiffs had started proceedings in Spain against the defendants and others claiming that the defendants were liable to them for substantial amounts unpaid under an exercised put option given to them in connection with the sale of their special paper business.

While those proceedings were pending they had also started English proceedings against the defendants claiming damages for negligent misrepresentations allegedly made during the negotiations for the sale of the business.

The defendants had resisted the English proceedings on the ground, inter alia, that they fell within article 22. It was common ground that if the English and Spanish actions were related then the Spanish court was first seized. The debate had concentrated on whether there was a risk of irreconcilable judgments arising from the two sets of proceedings.

The Court of Appeal had considered the approach of the European

Court of Justice, including the opinion of the Advocate General, in *The Maciej Rataj Case C-406/92* (1993) 1 Lloyd's Rep 302; sub nom *The Turky* (1994) ECR I-5439 and concluded that the issues that had to be considered in deciding whether there was a risk of irreconcilable judgments were:

"The issues of fact or law which have to be decided in order that the court can reach its judgment in the particular case. These can be described as 'primary' issues and they are limited to those facts which are necessary to establish a cause of action. The court's decisions on these primary issues represent the process of reasoning upon which its judgment is based. But they do not include... other issues of fact which the court may or may not decide and which are not essential to its conclusion in this way."

His Lordship could not accept that article 22 should be interpreted or applied in that way. He would find nothing in the opinion of the Advocate General or the judgment of the European Court in *The Maciej Rataj* to support the distinction drawn.

The wide words of article 22 militated against the suggested limitation. They were designed to cover a range of circumstances, from cases where the matters before the courts were virtually identical, although not falling within article 21, to cases where, although that was not the position, the connection was close enough to make it expedient for them to be heard and determined together to avoid the risk in question.

Those latter words were required if irreconcilable judgments

extended beyond primary or essential issues, so as to exclude actions that, although theoretically capable of giving rise to conflict, were not sufficiently closely connected to make it expedient for them to be heard and determined together."

It had to be borne in mind that article 22 was concerned not with the substantive rights and obligations of the parties but with the ancillary and procedural question as to where in the Community those rights and obligations should be heard and determined.

There was nothing in the Convention that suggested that it was in the interests of the Community that litigation on that question should be made more expensive and time-consuming than necessary.

There should be a broad common sense approach to the question whether actions were related, bearing in mind the objective of article 22, applying the simple test set out and refined by the House of Lords in *The Maciej Rataj*. That had been the judge's approach.

He had decided that the plaintiffs' action should be stayed only in view of the stance then adopted by them. Otherwise he would have declined jurisdiction, since it had seemed clear to him that the Spanish court permitted the consolidation of related actions and that that court had jurisdiction over both actions. The plaintiffs' stance had now changed and his order should be altered to one declining jurisdiction.

Lord Goff, Lord Lloyd, Lord Hope and Lord Clyde agreed.

Solicitors: Baker & McKenzie; Linklaters & Paines.

Regina v Emmett and Another

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Steyn and Lord Clyde

[Speeches November 13]

A defendant was entitled to appeal to the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, against a confiscation order in respect of his proceeds of drug trafficking made under the provisions of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986, now replaced by the Drug Trafficking Act 1994, notwithstanding his acceptance of a prosecution statement under section 3(1) and was entitled to argue that his acceptance had been based on a mistake of law or fact.

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the Crown from the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Schiemann, Mr Justice Morland and Mr Justice Collins) who on February 1997 had allowed an appeal by Brian and Michael Emmett, had quashed a confiscation order made under section 1 of the 1986 Act by Judge E. G. Neville at Exeter Crown Court on October 25, 1995 following their pleas of guilty to being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on the importation of a controlled drug contrary to section 7(2)(2) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979.

Mr Paul Garlick, QC and Mr Nigel Lickley for the Crown; Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC and Mr Anthony Wilcken for the Emmetts.

LORD STEYN said that on November 7, 1993, after months of preparation in England and Spain, a group of men had started to unload a cargo of four metric tons of cocaine at the airport. The Emmetts had been two of the four principal organisers. The street value of the cocaine had been some £13,000,000. The outlay for the whole operation had probably been of the order of £3,000,000. The Emmetts had been sentenced to 12½ years imprisonment, reduced on appeal to nine years.

Under the 1986 Act, the judge had first to consider whether the accused had benefited from drug trafficking and, if so, to make appropriate confiscation orders. Counsel for the four principal organisers, acting on instructions, had invited him to make agreed orders.

He had said: "It was agreed between counsel [that] the benefits accruing to Bracken, Lemonnier and both Emmetts amounted to £100,000. It was agreed that a confiscation order should be made

in the statutory period had been met out of payments received by him in connection with drug trafficking carried out by him."

Section 3 of the 1986 Act provided: "(1) Where — (a) there is a statement made by the prosecutor to the effect that a defendant has benefited from drug trafficking or to the assessment of the value of his proceeds of drug trafficking; and (b) the defendant accepts to any extent any allegation in the statement, the court may, for the purposes of that determination and assessment, treat his acceptance as conclusive of the matters to which it relates."

The Crown rightly accepted that with leave an appeal lay against a confiscation order as part of a sentence but submitted that the general right to appeal had been excluded by section 3(1) in respect of a defendant's acceptance of any allegation in a statement tendered by the prosecution and acted on by the court. "Conclusive" meant conclusive for all purposes: see *R v Treadwell* (1994) 99 Cr App R 154.

There was a strong presumption

that except by specific provision the legislature would not exclude a right of appeal. Neither section 3 nor any other part of the 1986 Act contained any express provisions dealing with appeals to the Court of Appeal. Section 3(1) was a procedural provision designed to facilitate proof that a defendant had benefited from drug trafficking and to establish what the value of his proceeds had been.

In the context, the provision that the court might treat the defendant's acceptance of the prosecution statement as conclusive of the matters to which it related was capable of meaning no more than that the court might treat the acceptance as proof of the matters to which it related. No necessary implication ousted the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal was justified.

The Court of Appeal nowadays had power to consider an argument that an unequivocal and informed plea of guilty had been induced by a fundamental mistake of law or fact. It was difficult to see what rational basis there could be for excluding such a right of appeal.

under section 3(1) of the 1986 Act. The observations in *Treadwell* about the meaning and effect of section 3(1) were incorrect.

The question on such appeals would be not what mistake counsel had made but what mistake the defendant had made. The burden on the defendant might not be easily discharged. The focus would be on a material and causatively relevant mistake, and the Court of Appeal might still have to consider whether, absent a material mistake, the confiscation order would nevertheless have been inevitable. If that was the case, the appeal might have to be dismissed on the ground that on a global view no injustice could be shown.

His Lordship was satisfied that it had not been established that the Emmetts had agreed to the confiscation orders as a result of a mistaken view of the law. The orders had been justified on the evidence.

Lord Goff, Lord Slynn, Lord Nicholls and Lord Clyde agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Ralph Haerms & Co.

Effective date of cause of action against insurance broker

Knapp and Another v Ecclesiastical Insurance Group plc and Another

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Hobbhouse and Lord Justice Buxton

[Judgment October 30]

A cause of action against an insurance broker who negligently advised a client to take out an insurance policy which was voidable and which the insurer avoided when the client tried to claim under it arose when the policy was issued, not when the insurer avoided the policy.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the second defendant, David Smith, trading as David Smith Insurance Brokers, against a decision of Sir Peter Webster sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division refusing to strike out an action brought by the plaintiffs, William and Denise Knapp, on the ground that it was time barred.

Mr Robert Walker, QC and Mr Adam Tolley for the second defendant; Mr Robert Jackson, QC and Mr Malcolm Sticher for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that for the purposes of the

first suffered damage as a result of the second defendant's alleged breach of duty so as to make that breach actionable.

The second defendant submitted that that was on April 12, 1990 when the renewal cover attached. The plaintiffs said that it was not until April 4, 1991 when the insurer elected to avoid the policy or alternatively on October 16, 1990 when the fire which led to the claim occurred.

His Lordship considered the authorities including *Pirelli General Cable Works Ltd v Oscar* (1969) 1 All ER 1003, *Faber & Partners* (1983) 2 All ER 808 and *Islander Trucking Ltd v Hogg Robinson & Gardner Mountain (Marine) Ltd* (1990) 1 All ER 526 were correctly decided and on the facts of the instant case it had to be concluded that the second defendant's alleged negligence became actionable at the suit of the plaintiffs on about April 12, 1990 well outside the six-year limitation period.

The loss which the plaintiffs then suffered was the receipt of a purported cover which was not binding, a deficiency of which they were not aware. In return for the payment of the renewal premium, they had been misled into believing that they had a binding contract of indemnity from the insurance company.

They had acted to their detriment.

On the law as laid down by the House of Lords and the principles on which the Court of Appeal decisions were based, the instant cases of *Iron Trade Mutual Insurance Co Ltd v Buchanan Ltd* (1990) 1 All ER 808 and *Islander Trucking Ltd v Hogg Robinson & Gardner Mountain (Marine) Ltd* (1990) 1 All ER 526 were correctly decided and on the facts of the instant case it had to be concluded that the second defendant's alleged negligence became actionable at the suit of the plaintiffs on about April 12, 1990 well outside the six-year limitation period.

The loss which the plaintiffs then suffered was the receipt of a purported cover which was not binding, a deficiency of which they were not aware. In return for the payment of the renewal premium, they had been misled into believing that they had a binding contract of indemnity from the insurance company.

They had acted to their detriment.

It would exclude the possibility at that time of remedying the

Act does not apply retrospectively

Regina v Hackney London Borough Council, Ex parte K

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Chadwick

[Judgment October 30]

Section 9 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 did not apply retrospectively and the coming into force of that Act was not a new circumstance which a housing authority could regard as a reasonable ground for reconsidering its earlier decision, under the Housing Act 1985, to provide accommodation to a homeless asylum seeker, who was in priority need and not intentionally homeless.

The Court of Appeal so held when granting a renewed application for leave to move for judicial review, and granting judicial review after a full hearing, of an

and Ms Gillian Carrington for the council.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that K had arrived in the United Kingdom in January 1996 and later applied for asylum. In May 1996 he applied to the council as the local housing authority, for accommodation. The council, having come to the conclusion after making the relevant inquiries that it owed him a duty under section 65(2) of Part III of the Housing Act 1985, provided him with accommodation.

The legal position changed as a consequence of the coming into force of section 9 of the 1996 Act which made certain categories of asylum seekers ineligible for benefits. The council took the view that the 1996 Act had removed its obligation to continue to house K and gave him notice to quit.

into effect of section 9 was a fresh circumstance which entitled the council to determine K's right to occupy the accommodation which had been provided and to reconsider the matter taking into account section 9 which made him no longer eligible for the benefits provided by section 65(2) of the 1985 Act.

His Lordship said that the important point in regard to the position under the 1985 Act was that the housing authority, having provided accommodation, was under a public law duty to allow a person in K's position to continue to occupy that accommodation or alternative accommodation unless it was reasonable for it to terminate that right to occupation.

In considering whether it was reasonable to terminate that right, it would be an error of law to take into account the effect of the

Act before the 1996 Act came into force, the council had decided K was eligible and that he was someone to whom it owed a duty. That situation could not be altered by the coming into force of the 1996 Act.

In his Lordship's judgment the council was not entitled to serve the notice to quit. It did not direct itself properly in determining to serve the notice. It took into account an inappropriate consideration, namely the fact that it thought section 9 of the 1996 Act applied to K when it did not. Accordingly, his right to occupation was not terminated lawfully.

In coming to that conclusion his Lordship disagreed with the decision of Mr Justice Carruthers in *R v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Shelter* and another (1996) 1 All ER 808.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous days close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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5501	1894-	94
5502	1894-	95
5503	1894-	96
5504	1894-	97
5505	1894-	98
5506	1894-	99
5507	1894-	100

Cap units	Company	Price \$	Yld %	Yrs to pay	Min cost (\$/unit)	Company	Price \$	Yld %	Yrs to pay	Min cap cost/unit	Company	Price \$	Yld %	Yrs to pay
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542.00	Shaw	1075	8	15	20.6	50.00	BBK	224	8	0				
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547.00	Shaw	1075	8	15	20.6	50.00	BBK	224	8	0				
548.00	Shaw	1075	8	15	20.6	50.00	BBK	224	8	0				
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552.00	Shaw	1075	8	15	20.6	50.00	BBK	224	8	0				
553.00	Shaw	1075	8	15	20.6	50.00	BBK	224	8	0				
554.00	Shaw	1075	8	15										

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

57.10	Danish Spkr	140	-	54	33.9	1,113.70	Winn	2504	-	24	5.8	41.7	8,053.67	Wm Tinto	735	+ 44	4.4	15.4
57.50	Danish Wndr	1654	-	14	66.2	18.50	Tension Inc	75	-	26	0	4.8	4,236.70	Bo Tinto Ltd	6842	- 104	4.2	15.4

[illegible]

No.		Company	Group	Class
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12/31/93	12/31/92	12/31/91	12/31/90	12/31/89	12/31/88	12/31/87	12/31/86	12/31/85	12/31/84	12/31/83	12/31/82	12/31/81	12/31/80	12/31/79	12/31/78	12/31/77	12/31/76	12/31/75	12/31/74	12/31/73	12/31/72	12/31/71	12/31/70	12/31/69	12/31/68	12/31/67	12/31/66	12/31/65	12/31/64	12/31/63	12/31/62	12/31/61	12/31/60	12/31/59	12/31/58	12/31/57	12/31/56	12/31/55	12/31/54	12/31/53	12/31/52	12/31/51	12/31/50	12/31/49	12/31/48	12/31/47	12/31/46	12/31/45	12/31/44	12/31/43	12/31/42	12/31/41	12/31/40	12/31/39	12/31/38	12/31/37	12/31/36	12/31/35	12/31/34	12/31/33	12/31/32	12/31/31	12/31/30	12/31/29	12/31/28	12/31/27	12/31/26	12/31/25	12/31/24	12/31/23	12/31/22	12/31/21	12/31/20	12/31/19	12/31/18	12/31/17	12/31/16	12/31/15	12/31/14	12/31/13	12/31/12	12/31/11	12/31/10	12/31/09	12/31/08	12/31/07	12/31/06	12/31/05	12/31/04	12/31/03	12/31/02	12/31/01	12/31/00	12/31/99	12/31/98	12/31/97	12/31/96	12/31/95	12/31/94	12/31/93	12/31/92	12/31/91	12/31/90	12/31/89	12/31/88	12/31/87	12/31/86	12/31/85	12/31/84	12/31/83	12/31/82	12/31/81	12/31/80	12/31/79	12/31/78	12/31/77	12/31/76	12/31/75	12/31/74	12/31/73	12/31/72	12/31/71	12/31/70	12/31/69	12/31/68	12/31/67	12/31/66	12/31/65	12/31/64	12/31/63	12/31/62	12/31/61	12/31/60	12/31/59	12/31/58	12/31/57	12/31/56	12/31/55	12/31/54	12/31/53	12/31/52	12/31/51	12/31/50	12/31/49	12/31/48	12/31/47	12/31/46	12/31/45	12/31/44	12/31/43	12/31/42	12/31/41	12/31/40	12/31/39	12/31/38	12/31/37	12/31/36	12/31/35	12/31/34	12/31/33	12/31/32	12/31/31	12/31/30	12/31/29	12/31/28	12/31/27	12/31/26	12/31/25	12/31/24	12/31/23	12/31/22	12/31/21	12/31/20	12/31/19	12/31/18	12/31/17	12/31/16	12/31/15	12/31/14	12/31/13	12/31/12	12/31/11	12/31/10	12/31/09	12/31/08	12/31/07	12/31/06	12/31/05	12/31/04	12/31/03	12/31/02	12/31/01	12/31/00	12/31/99	12/31/98	12/31/97	12/31/96	12/31/95	12/31/94	12/31/93	12/31/92	12/31/91	12/31/90	12/31/89	12/31/88	12/31/87	12/31/86	12/31/85	12/31/84	12/31/83	12/31/82	12/31/81	12/31/80	12/31/79	12/31/78	12/31/77	12/31/76	12/31/75	12/31/74	12/31/73	12/31/72	12/31/71	12/31/70	12/31/69	12/31/68	12/31/67	12/31/66	12/31/65	12/31/64	12/31/63	12/31/62	12/31/61	12/31/60	12/31/59	12/31/58	12/31/57	12/31/56	12/31/55	12/31/54	12/31/53	12/31/52	12/31/51	12/31/50	12/31/49	12/31/48	12/31/47	12/31/46	12/31/45	12/31/44	12/31/43	12/31/42	12/31/41	12/31/40	12/31/39	12/31/38	12/31/37	12/31/36	12/31/35	12/31/34	12/31/33	12/31/32	12/31/31	12/31/30	12/31/29	12/31/28	12/31/27	12/31/26	12/31/25	12/31/24	12/31/23	12/31/22	12/31/21	12/31/20	12/31/19	12/31/18	12/31/17	12/31/16	12/31/15	12/31/14	12/31/13	12/31/12	12/31/11	12/31/10	12/31/09	12/31/08	12/31/07	12/31/06	12/31/05	12/31/04	12/31/03	12/31/02	12/31/01	12/31/00	12/31/99	12/31/98	12/31/97	12/31/96	12/31/95	12/31/94	12/31/93	12/31/92	12/31/91	12/31/90	12/31/89	12/31/88	12/31/87	12/31/86	12/31/85	12/31/84	12/31/83	12/31/82	12/31/81	12/31/80	12/31/79	12/31/78	12/31/77	12/31/76	12/31/75	12/31/74	12/31/73	12/31/72	12/31/71	12/31/70	12/31/69	12/31/68	12/31/67	12/31/66	12/31/65	12/31/64	12/31/63	12/31/62	12/31/61	12/31/60	12/31/59	12/31/58	12/31/57	12/31/56	12/31/55	12/31/54	12/31/53	12/31/52	12/31/51	12/31/50	12/31/49	12/31/48	12/31/47	12/31/46	12/31/45	12/31/44	12/31/43	12/31/42	12/31/41	12/31/40	12/31/39	12/31/38	12/31/37	12/31/36	12/31/35	12/31/34	12/31/33	12/31/32	12/31/31	12/31/30	12/31/29	12/31/28	12/31/27	12/31/26	12/31/25	12/31/24	12/31/23	12/31/22	12/31/21	12/31/20	12/31/19	12/31/18	12/31/17	12/31/16	12/31/15	12/31/14	12/31/13	12/31/12	12/31/11	12/31/10	12/31/09	12/31/08	12/31/07	12/31/06	12/31/05	12/31/04	12/31/03	12/31/02	12/31/01	12/31/00	12/31/99	12/31/98	12/31/97	12/31/96	12/31/95	12/31/94	12/31/93	12/31/92	12/31/91	12/31/90	12/31/89	12/31/88	12/31/87	12/31/86	12/31/85	12/31/84	12/31/83	12/31/82	12/31/81	12/31/80	12/31/79	12/31/78	12/31/77	12/31/76	12/31/75	12/31/74	12/31/73	12/31/72	12/31/71	12/31/70	12/31/69	12/31/68	12/31/67	12/31/66	12/31/65	12/31/64	12/31/63	12/31/62	12/31/61	12/31/60	12/31/59	12/31/58	12/31/57	12/31/56	12/31/55	12/31/54	12/31/53	12/31/52	12/31/51	12/31/50	12/31/49	12/31/48	12/31/47	12/31/46	12/31/45	12/31/44	12/31/43	12/31/42	12/31/41	12/31/40	12/31/39	12/31/38	12/31/37	12/31/36	12/31/35	12/31/34	12/31/33	12/31/32	12/31/31	12/31/30	12/31/29	12/31/28	12/31/27	12/31/26	12/31/25	12/31/24	12/31/23	12/31/22	12/31/21	12/31/20	12/31/19	12/31/18	12/31/17	12/31/16	12/31/15	12/31/14	12/31/13	12/31/12	12/31/11	12/31/10	12/31/09	12/31/08	12/31/07	12/31/06	12/31/05	12/31/04	12/31/03	12/31/02	12/31/01	12/31/00	12/31/99	12/31/98	12/31/97	12/31/96	12/31/95	12/31/94	12/31/93	12/31/92	12/31/91	12/31/90	12/31/89	12/31/88	12/31/87	12/31/86	12/31/85	12/31/84	12/31/83	12/31/82	12/31/81	12/31/80	12/31/79	12/31/78	12/31/77	12/31/76	12/31/75	12/31/74	12/31/73	12/31/72	12/31/71	12/31/70	12/31/69	12/31/68	12/31/67	12/31/66	12/31/65	12/31/64	12/31/63	12/31/62	12/31/61	12/31/60	12/31/59	12/31/58	12/31/57	12/31/56	12/31/55	12/31/54	12/31/53	12/31/52	12/31/51	12/31/50	12/31/49	12/31/48	12/31/47	12/31/46	12/31/45	12/31/44	12/31/43	12/31/42	12/31/41	12/31/40	12/31/39	12/31/38	12/31/37	12/31/36	12/31/35	12/31/34	12/31/33	12/31/32	12/31/31	12/31/30	12/31/29	12/31/28	12/31/27	12/31/26	12/31/25	12/31/24	12/31/23	12/31/22	12/31/21	12/31/20	12/31/19	12/31/18	12/31/17	12/31/16	12/31/15	12/31/14	12/31/13	12/31/12	12/31/11	12/31/10	12/31/09	12/31/08	12/31/07	12/31/06	12/31/05	12/31/04	12/31/03	12/31/02	12/31/01	12/31/00	12/31/99	12/31/98	12/31/97	12/31/96	12/31/95	12/31/94	12/31/93	12/31/92	12/31/91	12/31/90	12/31/89	12/31/88	12/31/87	12/31/86	12/31/85	12/31/84	12/31/83	12/31/82	12/31/81	12/31/80	12/31/79	12/31/78	12/31/77	12/31/76	12/31/75	12/31/74	12/31/73	12/31/72	12/31/71	12/31/70	12/31/69	12/31/68	12/31/67	12/31/66	12/31/65	12/31/64	12/31/63	12/31/62	12/31/61	12/31/60	12/31/59	12/31/58	12/31/57	12/31/56	12/31/55	12/31/54	12/31/53	12/31/52	12/31/51	12/31/50	12/31/49	12/31/48	12/31/47	12/31/46	12/31/45	12/31/44	12/31/43	12/31/42	12/31/41	12/31/40	12/31/39	12/31/38	12/31/37	12/31/36	12/31/35	12/31/34	12/31/33	12/31/32	12/31/31	12/31/30	12/31/29	12/31/28	12/31/27	12/31/26	12/31/25	12/31/24	12/31/23	12/31/22	12/31/21	12/31/20	12/31/19	12/31/18	12/31/17	12/31/16	12/31/15	12/31/14	12/31/13	12/31/12	12/31/11	12/31/10	12/31/09	12/31/08	12/31/07	12/31/06	12/31/05	12/31/04	12/31/03	12/31/02	12/31/01	12/31/00	12/31/99	12/31/98	12/31/97	12/31/96	12/31/95	12/31/94	12/31/93	12/31/92	12/31/91	12/31/90	12/31/89	12/31/88	12/31/87	12/31/86	12/31/85	12/31/84	12/31/83	12/31/82	12/31/81	12/31/80	12/31/79	12/31/78	12/31/77	12/31/76	12/31/75	12/31/74	12/31/73	12/31/72	12/31/71	12/31/70	12/31/69	12/31/68	12/31/67	12/31/66	12/31/65	12/31/64	12/31/63	12/31/62	12/31/61	12/31/60	12/31/59	12/31/58	12/31/57	12/31/56	12/31/55	12/31/54	12/31/53	12/31/52	12/31/51	12/31/50	12/31/49	12/31/48	12/31/47	12/31/46	12/31/45	12/31/44	12/31/43	12/31/42	12/31/41	12/31/40	12/31/39	12/31/38	12/31/37	12/31/36	12/31/35	12/31/34	12/31/33	12/31/32	12/31/31	12/31/30	12/31/29	12/31/28	12/31/27	12/31/26	12/31/25	12/31/24	12/31/23	12/31/22	12/31/21	12/31/20	12/31/19	12/31/18	12/31/17	12/31/16	12/31/15	12/31/14	12/31/13	12/31/12	12/31/11	12/31/10	12/31/09	12/31/08	12/31/07	12/31/06	12/31/05	12/31/04	12/31/03	12/31/02	12/31/01	12/31/00	12/31/99	12/31/98	12/31/97	12/31/96	12/31/95	12/31/94	12/31/93	12/31/92	12/31/91	12/31/90	12/31/89	12/31/88	12/31/87	12/31/86	12/31/85	12/31/84	12/31/83	12/31/82	12/31/81	12/31/80	12/31/79	12/31/78	12/31/77	12/31/76	12/31/75	12/31/74	12/31/73	12/31/72	12/31/71	12/31/70	12/31/69	12/31/68	12/31/67	12/31/66	12/31/65	12/31/64	12/31/63	12/31/62	12/31/61	12/31/60	12/31/59	12/31/58	12/31/57	12/31/56	12/31/55	12/31/54	12/31/53	12/31/52	12/31/51	12/31/50	12/31/49	12/31/48	12/31/47	12/31/46	12/31/45	12/31/44	12/31/43	12/31/42	12/31/41	12/31/40	12/31/39	12/31/38	12/31/37	12/31/36	12/31/35	12/31/34	12/31/33	12/31/32	12/31/31	12/31/30	12/31/29	12/31/28	12/31/27	12/31/26	12/31/25	12/31/24	12/31/23	12/31/22	12/31/21	12/31/20	12/31/19	12/31/18	12/31/17	12/31/16	12/31/15	12/31/14	12/31/13	12/31/12	12/31/11	12/31/10	12/31/09	12/31/08	12/31/07	12/31/06	12/31/05	12/31/04	12/31/03	12/31/02	12/31/01	12/31/00	12/31/99	12/31/98	12/31/97	12/31/96	12/31/95	12/31/94	12/31/93	12/31/92	12/31/91	12/31/90	12/31/89	12/31/88	12/31/87	12/31/86	12/31/85	12/31/84	12/31/83	12/31/82	12/31/81	12/31/80	12/31/79	12/31/78	12/31/77	12/31/76	12/31/75	12/31/74	12/31/73	12/31/72	12/31/71	12/31/70	12/31/69	12/31/68	12/31/67	12/31/66	12/31/65	12/31/64	12/31/63	12/31/62	12/31/61	12/31/60	12/31/59	12/31/58	12/31/57	12/31/56	12/31/55	12/31/54	12/31/53	12/31/52	12/31/51	12/31/50	12/31/49	12/31/48	12/31/47	12/31/46	12/31/45	12/31/44	12/31/43	12/31/42	12
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191.10	Midwest	1994+ 15 10	26.80	Harve Small	78 - 3	83	most of the year. Capital conditions improved in recent months.
39.50	Midwest Est	27% 23 ..	6.55	Jacques Verif	21%		needed. No significant data. Comments in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

THE ~~2003~~ TIMES
Portfolio

£1,000 to be won

Check the numbers on your Portfolio card and find your eight stocks in the Portfolio panel below. In the column provided next to your eight shares enter the share movements as published on the news page. Ignore fractions, i.e. enter 1/2 as 16 (the symbol $\frac{1}{2}$ means no change). After listing the price changes of your eight shares, add or subtract as appropriate to find your total, which can be plus or minus. If your overall total matches exactly the points required for the daily dividend you win a share of the £1,000 daily prize.

No	Company	Group	Gain of Revs
1	Gibson	Chemicals	
2	ASW	Engineering	
3	VTR	Media	
4	St James Place	Insurance	
5	W. Aylmer & Co	Food	
6	Causton	Food	
7	Greene King	Breweries	
8	Cranston	Food	
9	Pertemps Food	Food	
10	Macros 4	Sup Serv	
11	Asmead	Bld & Cons	
12	AllianceLeas	Banks	
13	Adwest	Env. Tech	
14	Ward	Bank	
15	MYHaulings	Print Pab	
16	Regent Inns	Breweries	
17	Teleplex	Electronic	
18	Peterhouse	Bld & Cons	
19	Steel Burill	Insurance	
20	Secure Tax	Off Fin	
21	Ward	Bank	
22	Dry Farm Ind	Food	
23	Head	Env. Tech	
24	Brunner Mond	Chemicals	
25	Woodwich	Bank	
26	FBD IE	Insurance	
27	Gibbs&Dynd	Bld Mats	
28	Alan ED & F	Off Fin	
29	Ventry	Electronic	
31	Partners	R& Gen	
32	Towry Law	Off Fin	
33	Parsons Hldgs	Proccy	
34	Thornions	Food	
35	Jarvis	Bld & Cons	
36	Hydro-Elec	Electric	
37	Ladbroke	Letsure	
38	PizzaExpress	Breweries	
39	Televisn Cp	Print Pab	
40	Cropper Utms	Media	
41	Bks for Bdr	Breweries	
42	Alld Crpts	R& Gen	
43	GEC	Electronic	
44	Paragon	Off Fin	

Portfolio

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DAILY DIVIDEND

DAILY DIVIDEND
+40
Claims required for +40 plan
Claimants should ring
0171-481 3388
between 9.30am-5pm

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily income to match the weekly dividend published in the *Sunday Times* to value £5,000.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Weekly accumulator total						

There was one winner of the £1.0 prize yesterday: N Price, Edgbaston Birmingham

Company	Price (\$)	Vol- % ¹	P/E ²
6.99 American	51	4	77
62.50 J.C. Penney	350	5	39
26.50 Landon	182 ^{1/2}	11 ^{1/2}	52
41.10 Laramie	108 ^{1/2}	17 ^{1/2}	117
40.70 Laramie	179 ^{1/2}	14	117
3.40 Leslie	24	117	18
20.00 Leslie (S&I)	18	3	37
52.00 Linn	18	5	91
5.02 PCV	34 ^{1/2}	1	8
3.30 Parkland	172 ^{1/2}	3	43
10.70 Leach	31	4	49
15.70 Peabody	72	2	61
22.00 Reading	37 ^{1/2}	6	12
8.10 Richards	32	1	11
1.58 Roper	25 ^{1/2}	3	17
28.00 Sherman's	112 ^{1/2}	4	74
6.75 Stewart	11	1	10
14.00 Stewart	11	1	10
32.50 Sunlight	39	5	74
41.10 US Safety	11	1	13
10.70 Luby	146	2	94
4.42 Yonkers	140	1	6

TRANSPORT

1760	As London	217	37	32
1765	As London	256	17	02
1840	As Paris	166	5	27
1845	As Paris	162	5	17
1850	As Paris	162	5	17
1855	As Paris	162	5	17
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2090	As Paris	162	5	17
2095	As Paris	162	5	17
2100	As Paris	162	5	17
2105	As Paris	162	5	17
2110	As Paris	162	5	17
2115	As Paris	162	5	17
2120	As Paris	162	5	17
2125	As Paris	162	5	17
2130	As Paris	162	5	17
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2140	As Paris	162	5	17
2145	As Paris	162	5	17
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2180	As Paris	162	5	17
2185	As Paris	162	5	17
2190	As Paris	162	5	17
2195	As Paris	162	5	17
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2205	As Paris	162	5	17
2210	As Paris	162	5	17
2215	As Paris	162	5	17
2220	As Paris	162	5	17
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2235	As Paris	162	5	17
2240	As Paris	162	5	17
2245	As Paris	162	5	17
2250	As Paris	162	5	17
2255	As Paris	162	5	17
2260	As Paris	162	5	17
2265	As Paris	162	5	17
2270	As Paris	162	5	17
2275	As Paris	162	5	17
2280	As Paris	162	5	17
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2980	As Paris	162	5	17
2985	As Paris	162	5	17
2990	As Paris	162	5	17
2995	As Paris	162	5	17
3000	As Paris	162	5	17

WATER

WATER			
151.39	Anglin	736	- 35
138.90	East Sundry	261	52
205.47	Hyde	904	+ 124
236.00	Mudon Can Pnl	314	-
106.20	Mid Kent Hdq.	634	+ 5
03-10	Sanitary Trunk	895	+ 41
186.00	South Coast	21624	34
151.30	South West	8177	+ 174
317.69	Thames	872	- 18
598.68	Ud and Utilities	726	+ 111
047.23	Wessex	283	- 5
182.30	Yorkshire	470	+ 164

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

7.78	Abacus Request	119%	-	16
9.60	Calix Inc.	126%	-	19
109.10	Danvers Hds	152%	-	3.1
172.30	Freemaps	35%	-	1
5.40	Megatronics	69%	-	0.4
26.20	Memory Corp	37%	-	2
78.90	Pricer Plc	512%	-	8
338.60	Ramco Inc	730%	-	3
140.70	Southern Mns	743%	-	3.4
14.80	Southern Vncl	74%	-	3.5
98.40	Turkcell	19%	-	2

Price at suspension, 1 Ex dividend 7 Ex corp ▲ E
 uc ▼ Ex ad 5 Ex capital distribution * Figures o
 noted No significant data Compares in b

constituents of the FTSE 100 index

Granada set to shine at top end of forecasts



Charles Allen will be pressed for news of Granada disposals, such as Grosvenor House

GRANADA: The media and leisure group, has a habit of accompanying results with big deals — witness the hostile bid for Forte two years ago. This time, the City wants disposals news, but the message seems to be "Don't hold your breath".

The on-off sale of Grosvenor House in Park Lane, London, seems to have become bogged down at the negotiating table, and a solution to the Savoy conundrum seems as far off as ever. The only hope rests with the £80 million-plus French motorway services business, on which an announcement is expected by the end of the year.

Nevertheless, Gerry Robinson, the chairman, and Charles Allen, chief executive, will not be disappointed. Thursday's full-year results are likely to be at the top end of analysts' £630 million to £650 million forecasts — up from £480 million — bolstered by strong results at Forte and a sturdy television advertising market. Television operations should also be boosted by the acquisition of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees in June. Granada is also expected to claim that the £100 million of profit improvement promised during the Forte bid has been surpassed by at least 20 per

cent. The total dividend will rise from 13p to about 14.5p.

VODAFONE: The group is likely to consolidate its position as Britain's biggest mobile phone operator in half-year figures tomorrow. Estimates of pre-tax profits range from £280 million to £285 million, up from £235 million in last year's first half. The group earlier this year bought several service providers and it has wasted little time in restructuring them, for which a £20 million provision will be set aside this time. The strongest growth will be in international operations, with their new subscribers up significantly. The payout is likely to rise, in line with previous years, by 20 per cent, to 2.83p.

BRITISH STEEL: Half-year figures this morning will show the impact of a strong pound. Last year, the group made pre-tax profits of £262 million, but the outcome this time could be anything between £70 million and £120 million.

Sterling's strength will also have accelerated the redundancy programme. Brokers say that up to a quarter of the 40,000 workforce may be involved in the restructuring. Currency drove profits down from a record £1.1 bil-

COMPANIES

lion to £451 million last year. NatWest Markets is looking for £85 million at half year. BZW forecasts £100 million.

Recent speculation has suggested a link-up soon with Preussag Stahl, the German steelmaker, and investment of a further £500 million in a new plant in Indonesia.

In spite of the profits collapse, the group has managed to peg its dividend at 10p. An unchanged interim 3p is forecast.

EMAP: With the succession now settled, the City can concentrate on Emap's interim figures, out today. These are expected to be encouraging, with NatWest Markets, predicting a jump in pre-tax profits to £62.8 million, from £50.6 million. This is in spite of the poorly economy in France — where Emap is the second-largest magazine publisher and the intended chief executive, Kevin Hand, runs things. Consumer publishing is also exciting, with *FHM*, the men's monthly, leaving the likes of *Q* and *Loaded* in its wake. The outgoing chief executive, Robin Miller, will be questioned about Emap's stance on IPC, the consumer publisher

put up for sale by Reed Elsevier for £800 million. Emap is unlikely to say much more than it already has, and the feeling is that others may be able to offer more for IPC.

SAFEWAY: Brokers expect disappointing half-year results on Wednesday.

Mike Dennis, of Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, says that it is almost as if the group has primed the City to expect a dull set of figures. He is looking for pre-tax profits of £235 million, against £230 million.

Sales growth will have been flat and the chances are that the group may have continued to lose market share to J Sainsbury, Tesco and Asda. Brokers will no doubt want an indication of how Safeway intends to get sales lines moving if a better performance is expected for the second half. However, against last year's dull post-Christmas backdrop, improvement should not be too hard. After the breakdown of merger talks with Asda, Safeway will no doubt be required to outline its strategy. The payout should grow by 5 per cent, to 4.6p.

STOREHOUSE: The annual meeting earlier this year was reasonably encouraging on sales growth, but this will have altered after dull trading conditions in August and September. Nick Bubb, of SocGen, says that October was better, but that it is unlikely to have let the group make up all the lost ground. He forecasts £39 million interim pre-tax profits on Thursday, midway in a market range of £38 million to £40 million. Last year, the group made £37.5 million. Headline sales growth should,

at first sight, appear impressive, but, after a contribution from the Children's World acquisition is stripped out, the overall performance may leave much to be desired.

Bhs and Mothercare continue to struggle. Mr Bubb says that the market positioning of Bhs continues to cause concern, and Mothercare is losing its share of a flat market.

The interim dividend should grow from 3.3p to 3.5p.

UNIGATE: A solid performance is expected in results today. The all-important dairy division will have seen a recovery in margins on last year, and the expanded pig-meat processing activities should make a useful contribution.

Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, forecasts pre-tax profits of about £67 million, up from £60.6 million. The Wincanton transport division is back on track, with new contracts. Steadier pricing in retailing and manufacturing should limit damage to the profit and loss account.

The payout should rise 6 per cent, to 7.4p.

NORTHERN FOODS: Henderson Crosthwaite expects pre-tax profits tomorrow up from £57.8 million to £68 million. The market range is between £64 million and £69 million. Henderson says the dairy side should be £5 million up, at £27 million, with lower milk costs boosting doorstep margins. Paribas says the real benefit of the penny put on a pint earlier this year is unlikely to be felt till the second half. The payout will rise almost 6 per cent, to 3.8p.

MICHAEL CLARK

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Two clues awaited on interest rates

TWO key British statistical releases will this week give further clues on prospects for interest rates in the months ahead. Last week's Bank of England *Inflation Report* left the question of whether rates have now peaked ambiguous but ominously said that the Monetary Policy Committee was not "in a pause" in the process of monetary tightening.

With continuing strong growth in consumer demand and money supply cited as two of the main reasons behind the recent rise in base rates, this week's figures for retail sales and money supply are key. October's retail sales figures are published on Wednesday. According to the consensus of market forecasts compiled by MMS International, sales are expected to have risen 1.8 per cent, giving year-on-year growth of 5.1 per cent, compared with a drop in sales volumes in September of 1.9 per cent and a year-on-year rate of 3.4 per cent.

October figures for M4 money supply are published on Thursday and are expected to show growth in broad money of 0.5 per cent. This would mean the annual rate of growth dipping somewhat to 11.2 per cent from 11.8 per cent in September but this rate is still far too high for comfort within the MPC. The Bank said last week that "money growth must be slow if the inflation target is to be met". Also published in Britain this week are October figures for the public sector borrowing requirement as well as the latest monthly trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry. The latter will be keenly watched for signs of any impact of sterling's appreciation on export volumes and orders.

JANET BUSH

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: British Steel, Emap, First Bus, Lyons Irish Holdings, 800 Group, TBI, Unigate, Whitcroft, Workspace Group, Finales: Grantchester Holdings, Economic statistics: US October industrial production.

TOMORROW

Interims: Adam & Harvey, Chamberlain & Hill, James Cropper, De La Rue, Enterprise Inns, Gail Thomson Environmental, Great Portland Estates, Marshalls, Merchant Retail Group, Northern Foods, Rebus Group, Vodafone Group, Voepel Thornycroft, Finales: BOC, Glasgow Insurance Trust, Economic statistics: UK October PSBR, Bank of England to give details of November 26 gift auction.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Black Arrow Group, Courtauld, Dawson International, European Colour, European Motor Holdings, FID, Fuji Bank, Hydrex Land Securities, Ikonica, Meyer International, Robert Westman, Dailies, Safeway, Southnews, Finales: Century Inns, Ferraris Group, Economic statistics: UK October retail sales, CBI Council press conference, US October housing starts.

THURSDAY

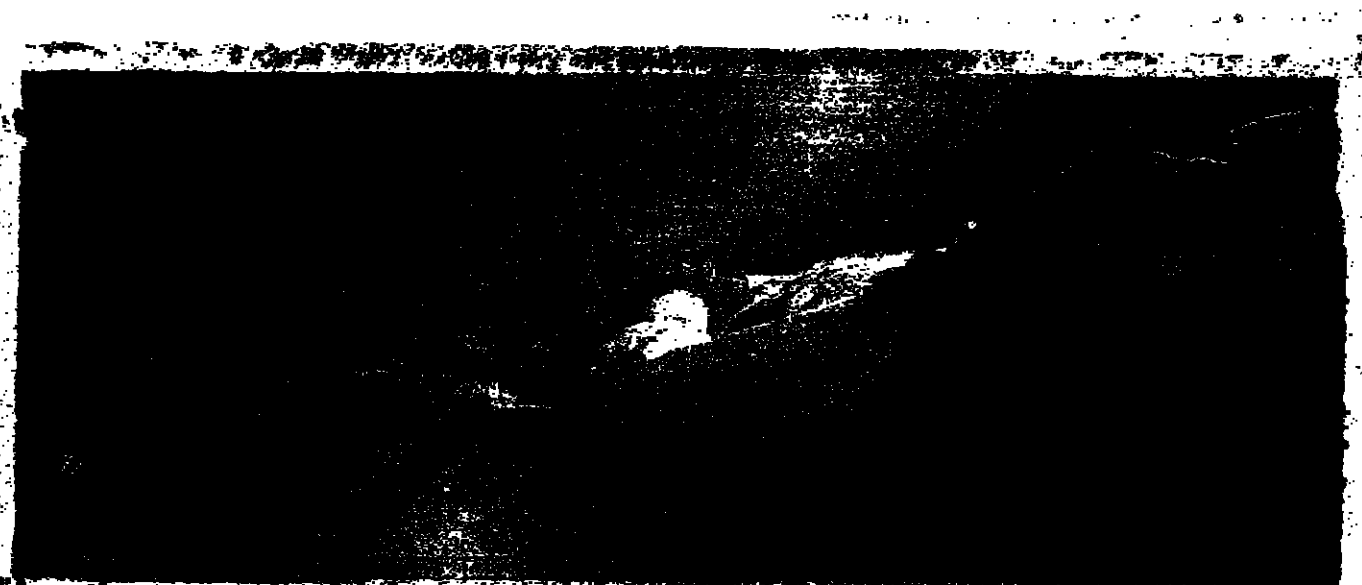
Interims: Baring Stratton Investment, (q3), Bradford Property Trust, Chorlton Group, City of London PR Group, Glenmore, Hill Hill Lambert Fenchurch Group, ED&F Man, Powell Duffryn, PowerGen, Stanhouse, Shires Income, Vocelle Group, York Waterworks, Finales: Fibernet Group, Granada, Tomkins, Twesford United Collieries, Economic statistics: UK October car production, UK q3 provisional GDP, Building Societies Association October lending, CBI November industrial trends survey.

FRIDAY

Interims: Osborne & Little, Wei Kwong Shipping.

SUNDAY TIPS

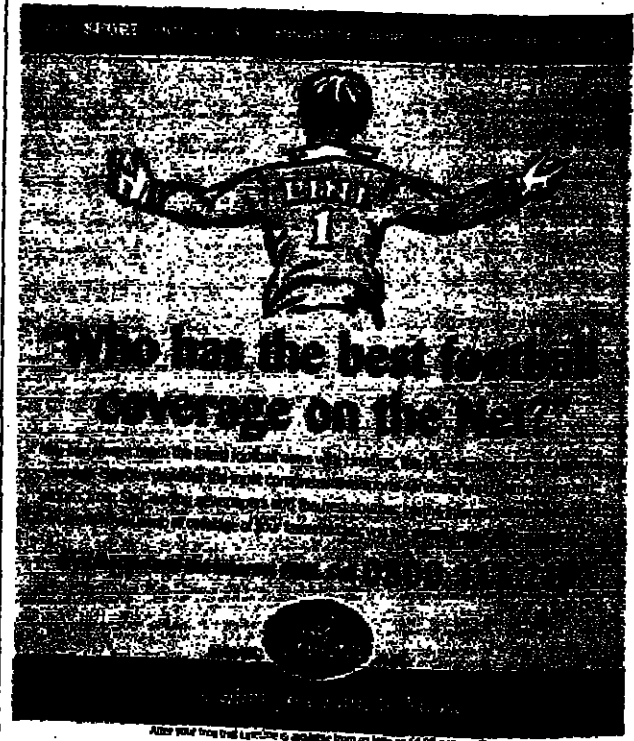
The Sunday Times: Buy British Steel, Mayflower, Signet, Workspace; Sell Manchester United. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Capital Radio, Five Oaks Investment, Sell Loftus Road, DCC, Hold Videologic. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Abacus Recruitment, Gibbon Group; Sell Lloyds TSB. The Observer: Buy Safeway; Sell JKC. The Express on Sunday: Buy Ryland, BPP Holdings; Hold BT.



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TWA



Labour repaying debt, — whatever next?

Theatrical production, *pace* Cameron Mackintosh, is not the road to riches. Its traditional backers are generally known as angels because their rewards tend to be in heaven, or at backstage parties. Criterion Productions has now gone through about £200,000 of the £500,000 raised four

Ms Greene started her career as theatrical impresario with one advantage – her first project, the ailing Richmond Theatre, in southwest London, was bought from her late father, a lawyer charged with selling it and a clutch of others as executor to the estate of the owner. She paid £90,000 and spent another £5 million refurbishing it. The Richmond became a charitable trust, paving the way for some support from the local authority.

The Criterion in Piccadilly Circus was "dark", in theatrical parlance, when she bought it for £1 million from Moundleigh Properties in 1992. "They wanted someone who could raise money. That's what I am quite

good at." The lights went on again, and she brought in stars such as Kenneth Branagh. Next week a touring production by the Royal Shakespeare Company of *Cyrano de Bergerac* arrives there, starring Anthony Sher.

The initial BES issue to launch her production company was backed by Charles Fry of Johnson Fry Securities, although he is not involved this time around. "Charles said it was the only BES company he had been involved with where there were no complaints." The story has it that he at first refused. Then a bouquet arrived at his of-

Perhaps it is a memory of one terrible night in Worthing, but Ms Greene bridle at the word "angel" — "rather an old-fashioned term". Her supporters are investors, she insists, even if their investments may not pay off in terms of dividends or capital appreciation.

"I am interested in making huge profits — I would love to be a Mackintosh. But if you are an investor, you hope to get your money back — or at least to have a jolly good time."

After the economy tipped into recession, the consequences of spending laxity combined with earlier tax reductions were laid bare — hence the £45 billion deficit. But just as the euphoria was overdone in the late eighties so the gloom was overdone in the 1990-02 recession.

Granted, a decent economic recovery, then restraint on expenditure, would produce a much lower PSBR. In fact, Chancellors Lamont and Clarke enacted a huge rise in taxes so that the PSBR has fallen even more. The result is that we may soon be back in the Lawson situation. But can we avoid re-enacting the next stage of the fiscal cycle? If you

Call me naive, if you like, but I think things are a good bit better than that. Although the economy must slow down next year — either naturally or as a result of higher interest rates — there is no need for it to undergo a recession. The current expansion is healthier than the late 1980s boom. It could chug along for several years. That being the case, tax revenues will go on rising sweetly. What happens to public borrowing will then depend upon government policy on taxes and spending.

This is where our European friends will find it most difficult to be that even though the EMU project, sheer fiscal conservatism on the part of our new Labour Government would ensure low borrowing numbers until kingdom come. But if the PSBR reached very low levels, let alone moved into surplus, the pressures for high-employment and inflation would surely become intense.

As it is, the aim of preparing for EMU provides a bulwark against this pressure. The Maastricht treaty requirements are only the start. On a strict interpretation, they lay down that to be eligible to join the currency's criteria are: a low rate of inflation, a low rate of interest, a low rate of GDP, and its accumulated public debt be not more than

How can this circle be squared? The only way I can see is through tighter fiscal policy. In his first Budget, Mr Brown did tighten, but he failed to deliver the big tax rises that many economists (myself included) called for. The aim of preparing for the euro will force him to extend the squeeze over several years.

Spectacular tax rises are unlikely. Rather, particular taxes may rise at the margin, even as the PSBR turns into surplus, and government spending will have to grow only very slowly. After a few years, this stands a chance of producing an economy operating with a lower level of sterling and interest rates yet also a lower rate of inflation. And all this accompanied by a fiscal surplus.

What a happy prospect—inside or outside the euro. A Labour Government would then have the choice of continuing to pay off debt, increasing spending or cutting tax. First, Labour eschews a return to penal rates of personal taxation and rejects renationalisation of privatised industries. Now it is set to run a surplus on the public finances. Whatever has become of the sceptres of the 1970s?

Repayment (Rs)	Stock	Price	Qty	Net Amt	Net Amt	Stock	Outstanding (Rs)	Stock	Price	Qty	Net Amt	Net Amt
SHORTS (under 5 years)												
950	Sept 04-05 1998	116	-	3.30	5.30	2,850	Sept 04-05 2000-05	104%	-	79	7.39	6.35
3,600	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	8.72	7.02	2,150	Sept 04-05 2000-07	100%	-	81	8.72	8.08
4,150	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	8.72	7.02	4,900	Sept 04-05 2000-07	102%	-	79	7.39	6.72
4,900	Sept 04-05 1998-01	100%	-	15.55	12.55	5,650	Sept 04-05 2000-07	100%	-	81	8.72	7.51
4,750	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	14.52	11.52	4,750	Sept 04-05 2000-07	100%	-	81	8.72	8.40
3,275	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	14.49	11.49	3,275	Sept 04-05 2001	100%	-	79	7.39	6.86
3,275	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	14.52	11.52	3,275	Sept 04-05 2001	100%	-	79	7.39	6.86
3,275	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	14.52	11.52	3,275	Sept 04-05 2001	100%	-	79	7.39	6.86
1,252	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	10.88	7.88	1,000	Sept 04-05 2000-12	101%	-	80	8.00	8.53
1,000	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	10.88	7.88	1,000	Sept 04-05 2000-12	101%	-	80	8.00	8.53
1,000	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	6.5	5.19							
1,700	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	8.71	7.18	LOANS (over 15 years)						
8,000	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	8.00	6.49	1,000	Sept 04-05 2001	110%	-	81	7.88	6.52
1,000	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	7.88	6.49	12,670	Sept 04-05 2001	114%	-	79	7.39	6.87
12,670	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	8.59	7.22	7,250	Sept 04-05 2001	117%	-	81	7.88	6.81
7,250	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	11.47	9.47	16,500	Sept 04-05 2001	117%	-	81	7.88	6.81
16,500	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	5.03	3.70	UNDATED						
5,270	Sept 04-05 1998	100%	-	6.59	4.88	1,500	Sept 04-05	100%	-	81	8.00	
						475	Sept 04-05	100%	-	81	8.00	
						550	Sept 04-05	100%	-	81	8.00	
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)												
5,000	Sept 04-05 2002	100%	-	6.95	7.80	INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation at:						
6,950	Sept 04-05 2002	101%	-	8.78	8.88	2,000	Sept 04-05 2000-05	102%	-	79	7.39	6.96
2,000	Sept 04-05 2000-04	117%	-	7.88	6.49	2,000	Sept 04-05 2000-05	102%	-	79	7.39	6.96
2,500	Sept 04-05 2000-04	117%	-	8.71	5.81	2,000	Sept 04-05 2000-05	102%	-	79	7.39	6.96
2,000	Sept 04-05 2000-04	117%	-	8.71	5.81	1,150	Sept 04-05 2000-05	102%	-	79	7.39	6.96
1,150	Sept 04-05 2000-04	117%	-	8.71	5.81	3,000	Sept 04-05 2000-05	102%	-	79	7.39	6.96
3,000	Sept 04-05 2000-04	117%	-	8.71	5.81	2,025	Sept 04-05 2000-05	102%	-	79	7.39	6.96
2,025	Sept 04-05 2000-04	117%	-	8.71	5.8	2,000	Sept 04-05 2000-05	102%	-	79	7.39	6.96
2,000	Sept 04-05 2000-04	117%	-	8.71	5.8	2,000	Sept 04-05 2000-05	102%	-	79	7.39	6.96
2,000	Sept 04-05 2000-04	117%	-	8.71	5.8	2,000	Sept 04-05 2000-05	102%	-	79	7.39	6.96
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2,000	Sept 04-05 2000-04	117%	-	8.71	5.8	2,000	Sept 04-05 2000-05	102%	-	79	7.39	6.96
2,000	Sept 04-05 2000-04	117%	-</									

	Bank Buyer	Bank Seller
Australia S	2,54	2,38
Austria Sch	21,92	19,98
Belgium Fr	63,63	58,61
Canada S	2,512	2,52
Denmark S	0,302	0,302
Finland Mark	11,74	10,81
France Mdk	6,35	6,62
Germany S	10,58	10,58
Germany Dm	3,09	2,85
Greece Dr	4,86	4,47
Hong Kong S	13,90	12,70
India Rupee	12,29	10,76
Italy Lira	1,18	1,08
Israel Shk	6,35	5,70
Japan Yen	229,33	213,21
Netherlands	3,662	3,628
Netherlands Gld	0,952	0,928
Portugal Escudo	1,85	1,85
Sweden Kr	12,56	11,84
Switzerland Franc	311,03	289,00
USA Fed	6,81	7,25
Swiss Frs	229,33	229,33
Sweden Kr	13,50	12,98
Switzerland Franc	2,83	2,31
Switzerland Lira	32,50	304,75
Taiwan Nt	1,74	1,74

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New York Dow Jones
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15082.52 (-753.84)

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High on the brow and tall in the saddle

It was the sixth weekend before Christmas. You could tell that because all sorts of new series were conveniently starting six-part runs and because it couldn't quite decide what sort of weekend to be. Was it still the class and quality of autumn or the cheap, cheerful and commercial that traditionally signals the onset of winter? Julian Clary, Lily Savage and a new series of *The Fast Show* thought they knew.

But they had reckoned without Sir Isaiah Berlin, Julius Caesar and the Battle of Hastings. For once in my reviewing life I was going highbrow, safe in the knowledge that the worst that could happen was to fall asleep halfway through a Michael Ignatieff introduction and suddenly discover it was Monday.

The two-part tribute to Berlin, heavily stamped "not to be shown in his lifetime", arrived late in the schedules — late not just in terms

of last-minute but also, well, late. Still sober? That was the great unasked question as *The Making of a Hedgehog* (BBC2) got under way at hours of Friday and Saturday night normally reserved for frivolity rather than philosophy. You needed to be.

Both films were the product of one long interview but they were divided by more than the Second World War. Friday night, from the moment he over-elaborately introduced his subject as "the last great Jewish intellectual of Marxist Russia", was the torturing of Ignatieff. This he discovered early, when the straightforward question: "You then went to St Paul's School?" was met with: "Well, don't forget, I had very little imagination. I realised I was going to enjoy this."

So it proved, but goodness it was hard work. One of the reasons for this became more apparent on Saturday, when Ignatieff, having

mastered the art of nodding and shaking his head at the same time, had a much better time of it. As they discussed liberalism, pluralism and other -isms I had never heard of, excerpts from Berlin's broadcasts in the 1950s and 1960s showed how that distinctive voice had changed. The fluency was still there but the precision had faded with age, making way for something deeper, darker and occasionally difficult to understand.

But if one or two punchlines were lost (Ignatieff nodded and smiled encouragingly, knowing the moment had passed) and one or two I was not clever enough to understand, there were enough that made it through to make this an enjoyable, if rather tiring, 90 minutes. I feel somewhat embarrassed about warming quite so enthusiastically to the story about Churchill confusing Irving Berlin with Isaiah (so much for my

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

scholarly pretensions) but less so about logical positivism, which Berlin said he didn't believe in at all but found convenient because it swept away a lot of tedious metaphysics and all those second-rate philosophers who couldn't do it. Ignatieff smiled. I emphasised with the second-rate.

My colleague Melvyn Bragg is fond of a scholarly chat. His problem on last night's South

Bank Show was getting one. The subject was Iain Banks (or Iain M. Banks in science-fiction mode), a writer from a generation reluctant to take anything too seriously, least of all themselves.

For the first ten or 15 minutes, Tony Knox's film was dominated by two images. The first was "the vast and ruddy frame" of the Forth Railway Bridge, that Banks both lives by and writes about. The second was of Bragg, desperately trying to get his subject to take himself seriously. For a while it looked as though the best he could achieve was Banks's claim that his main aim in writing science fiction was to reclaim the moral high ground of space-opera for the Left. Bragg looked like a man who didn't altogether approve of science fiction.

Then came the breakthrough — the word "dystopia" (I had to look it up). Bragg looked realigned. Suddenly Banks was away, his

intellect finally unleashed. "There is a religion around now that makes sense, it's called science," Bragg's eyes lit up. Did somebody say science? After that, the pair chatted cleverly ever after, while Peter Capaldi, one of the stars of the marvellous television adaptation of *The Crow Road*, read extracts that intrigued more than they immediately tempted.

A tricky opening ten minutes is almost a defining element of tonight's television. It certainly took about that long to get used to Brian Cox's narration to I. Caesar's (BBC2, Saturday). But then it became clear why Cox was giving quite so much. The narration was everything to Phil Grabsky's gripping retelling of the story of Julius Caesar. Apart from some stone reliefs, the odd goblet of Plutarch and a handful of erudite academics, he had nothing else. That this

austere combination produced such watchable television was as improbable as it was impressive. No problems with the opening ten minutes to War Walkers (BBC2, Friday) which suggested more populist ambitions, a fact quickly confirmed by the sight of Professor Richard Holmes, the military historian, riding a medieval warhorse. Name of Thatch, apparently.

While Caesar came, saw but couldn't be bothered to conquer Britain, this was the story of how a Norman duke did so, 1,100 years and assorted Dark Ages later. Holmes is an accomplished storyteller, but what he really excels at is convincing you that the outcome of the Battle of Hastings is in doubt, when you've known from the age of eight that it isn't. Eventually, however, not even he could prevent nice King Harold getting one in the eye. The rest, as they say, is tapestry.

BBC1	BBC2
6.00am Business Breakfast (94814)	6.00am Education: History — What is its Future? (48123) 6.30 An English Education (1) (60272)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (89272)	7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (7 and 8) (89281)
9.25 Style Challenge (566649)	7.15 Telebooks (491752) 7.40 Smurfs' Adventures (221075) 8.05 Blue Peter (281562) 8.30 Music-a-Grams (281369) 8.45 Harry and the Hendersons (595743) 9.10 Spanish Globo (182049) 9.15 Clementine (214922) 9.20 Writing and Pictures (468017) 9.45 Storyline (445272)
9.50 Kilroy (1) (532881)	10.00 Telebooks (51524) 10.30 Words and Pictures (876327) 10.45 Cats' Eyes (317177) 11.00 Look and Read (153820) 11.20 Zig Zag (335782) 11.40 Landmarks (908271) 12.00 Modern Studies (872329) 12.20pm Job Bank (623543)
10.30 Change That from Tattler Park Country Estate in Cheshire (483463)	12.30 Working Lunch (83038) 1.00 The GreedySausage Gang (945427) 1.05 Hairy Jerry (1331085) 1.10 The Art and Antiques Hour (630456) 2.10 Going, Going, Gone (8247407) 2.40 News (7) (531459) 2.45 Clash of the Titans: Seb Cox and Steve Overt (7) (707183) 3.25 News (7) (891152) 3.30 The Village (949)
10.55 The Really Useful Show (7) (784325)	4.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (455) 4.30 Through the Keyhole (1) (723389) 4.55 Esther (595943) 5.30 Today's the Day (820)
11.35 Real Rooms (2289794)	6.00 The Simpsons (7) (449524)
12.00 News (7) and weather (823185)	6.20 Basketball: Galactica (7) (727265)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (517663)	7.10 The Car's the Star: The Chevrolet Corvette (7) (72307)
12.35 Give Us a Clue (252982)	7.30 Making Masterpieces: Neil MacGregor traces the origins of impressionism (7) (369)
1.00 One O'Clock News (7) and weather (8789)	8.00 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor: The causes and treatments for impotence; the risks and benefits of cervical cancer screening; and a new hearing test for babies (7) (123)
1.30 Regional News (84373494)	8.30 Land of the Tiger: New case of India's Kanha region (7) (182104)
1.40 The Weather Show (59831659)	9.20 Trade Secrets: Professional bakers reveal tricks of their trade (7) (205433)
1.45 Neighbours (7) (44386727)	9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks (7) (723272)
2.05 Quincey (7) (2946272)	10.00 I'm Alan Partridge: Alan manages to insult the entire farming population of Norfolk (7) (57128)
2.55 Woman's Best of Blunkety Blank (783793)	10.30 Newsnight (7) (823678) 11.15 Oldie TV (550336) 11.55 Weather (480817) 12.00 The Midnight Hour (80470)
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10.40 On Side: John Inverdale presents the sports magazine, Tonight, he talks Formula One racing with Damon Hill and new team boss Eddie Jordan, rugby with outspoken Aussie David Campese and tennis with Greg Rusedski (7) (458291)	
11.30 Film '97 with Barry Norman: Brad Pitt's latest outing, Seven Years in Tibet, about an Austrian mountaineer who strikes up a relationship with the Dalai Lama; plus reviews of <i>Keep the Aspidochelone</i> , <i>Regeneration</i> and <i>Lesen Dogs</i> (7) (82464)	
12.00 Last Embrace (1979) Suspense thriller, with Roy Scheider as a CIA operative whose wife is killed in an ambush, leading him to believe that someone wants him dead. Directed by Jonathan Demme (7) (496608) Followed by Weather	
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11.35 Real Rooms (2289794)	6.00 The Simpsons (7) (449524)
12.00 News (7) and weather (823185)	6.20 Basketball: Galactica (7) (727265)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (517663)	7.10 The Car's the Star: The Chevrolet Corvette (7) (72307)
12.35 Give Us a Clue (252982)	7.30 Making Masterpieces: Neil MacGregor traces the origins of impressionism (7) (369)
1.00 One O'Clock News (7) and weather (8789)	8.00 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor: The causes and treatments for impotence; the risks and benefits of cervical cancer screening; and a new hearing test for babies (7) (123)
1.30 Regional News (84373494)	8.30 Land of the Tiger: New case of India's Kanha region (7) (182104)
1.40 The Weather Show (59831659)	9.20 Trade Secrets: Professional bakers reveal tricks of their trade (7) (205433)
1.45 Neighbours (7) (44386727)	9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks (7) (723272)
2.05 Quincey (7) (2946272)	10.00 I'm Alan Partridge: Alan manages to insult the entire farming population of Norfolk (7) (57128)
2.55 Woman's Best of Blunkety Blank (783793)	10.30 Newsnight (7) (823678) 11.15 Oldie TV (550336) 11.55 Weather (480817) 12.00 The Midnight Hour (80470)
3.30 Playdays (7) (810417) 3.55 Enchanted Lands (123104) 4.00 Road Darts: Revolving Recipes (5983814) 4.15 Noah's Island (781365) 4.40 Goosebumps (821801) 5.00 Newsround (7) (545430) 5.15 Blue Peter — An End Byron Special (7) (930340)	12.30am Learning Zone: The Making of Peter Snow (974018) 12.45 Architecture in Britain (804215) 1.10 The Victorian High Church (883739) 1.45 Victorian Dissenting Churches (828780) 2.00 Modern Languages (83051) 4.00 Greek Language and People 1-2/French Experience (50215) 5.00 Business and Training (18437)
5.35 Neighbours (7) (738036)	
6.00 Six O'Clock News (7) and weather (291)	
6.30 Regional News (543)	
7.00 This is Your Life: Michael Aspel invites another personality to take a trip down memory lane (7) (7291)	
7.30 Here and Now: Top Range Chris Choi investigates the national shortage of Teletubbies toys which has enraged customers up and down the country and driven parents to desperate lengths (7) (727)	
8.00 EastEnders: Ian's life is turned upside down (7) (3811)	
8.30 Spic: Beth Coates arranges for Ashley to meet an attractive divorcee (2745)	
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (7) and weather (1088)	
9.30 Hotel: The Adelphi's house manager, Katy, is left in the lurch by the departure of a receptionist (7) (56363)	
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AT THE TOP 46
Granada results unlikely to disappoint

BUSINESS

INDEBTED 48
Roger Bootle on deficits and surpluses



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY NOVEMBER 17 1997

Financial turmoil prompts emergency meeting in China

BY JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING AND JANET BUSH IN LONDON

CHINA is holding a top-level meeting this week to review the turmoil in Asian financial markets and to find ways of heading off damage to its own economy. The leadership in Beijing has stood on the sidelines watching as the Asian markets have buckled. However, now that the crisis, which started in Thailand, has spread to the region's economic powerhouses in Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea and is badly hitting the

fragile economy in Japan, China feels increasingly threatened.

In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 index suffered a loss of nearly 5 per cent over the course of last week and is expected to come under further pressure in the days ahead.

Several Japanese banks and securities companies have had their credit ratings humiliatingly downgraded amid mounting concern about the instability of Japan's financial system.

On Friday, Standard & Poor's cut one of its ratings of Yamaichi Securities, one of Japan's big four brokerages, and IBCA,

Europe's credit rating agency, lowered ratings on four Japanese banks. Yamaichi said yesterday that it was considering restructuring into three separate entities.

The meeting in Beijing is being organised by the State Council, China's cabinet, and will include officials from key government departments, the country's securities regulatory agency and banking officials.

Sources in Hong Kong said that President Jiang Zemin, Li Peng, the Prime Minister, and Zhu Rongji, a vice-premier and economics czar, would take part in, or

closely monitor, the meeting. Discussions will focus on limiting financial risk in China's banking system. On the agenda is the possible reorganisation of the People's Bank of China, the central bank, along the lines of the US Federal Reserve.

Analysts believe that the leadership's move is a signal that China faces a risk of banking insolvency unless it can curb the massive debts of the state-owned banks and reform the financial system.

China's four big state-owned banks have run up huge debts in their political role of keeping afloat loss-making, state-

owned enterprises. About 20 per cent of their total loans, worth an estimated \$212 billion, are believed to be irrecoverable.

China had hoped to sell some state-owned firms to relieve the burden on the financial system, but that now looks difficult given the collapse of Asian markets and, in particular, the fall in the Hong Kong stock market where Chinese "red-chip" companies were to be floated.

The Japanese Bond Research Institute, Japan's biggest credit rating company, last week said that the health of the Chinese central bank was declining and

that the four state banks were likely to be hard hit as state-owned enterprises went bankrupt. Amid signs of slowing growth, China is displaying some of the symptoms of its faltering Asian neighbours, including huge empty office blocks in Beijing and Shanghai. Demand for its manufactured goods is declining as currency devaluations in the region render them uncompetitive.

Millions of workers in state-run industries have lost their jobs, are underemployed, or are staying at home on a nominal income "waiting for work".

Rights case to earn millions for employees

BY CHRIS AYKES

MILLIONS of pounds in compensation are expected to be paid out to 1,500 public sector employees after a High Court hearing today, during which the Government will admit that it broke European law on workers' rights for more than a decade.

The case applies to public sector employees whose jobs were transferred to the private sector during the 1980s. Many of them were either fired or found that their pay and conditions had drastically worsened with their new employers, in direct contravention of the Acquired Rights Directive adopted by the Council of the European Communities in 1977.

Dave Bradley, a refuse collector, had his pay cut by £60 per week to £185, his holiday entitlement almost halved to 15 days and his sick pay and pension scheme were abandoned. Mr Bradley was also forced to work compulsory overtime and his union was not recognised by his new employer.

Britain's three biggest unions - Unison, GMB and TGWU - claim that for ten years the Government knew it was in breach of European law and that under principles

set by a test case in Italy - known as the *Francovich* principles - workers who lost out as a result are entitled to compensation.

The Government has agreed that the workers have the right to sue and that during the 1980s Britain failed to meet its obligations under European law.

The decision has been welcomed by the unions as a landmark change in the Government's attitude towards employment rights.

Jack Dromey, national secretary of the TGWU, said: "For ten years Tory ministers deliberately broke the law because they wanted to promote a Dutch auction of who could pay the least to the fewest in the privatisation of public services."

"The public lost out as service standards tumbled. Public servants paid the price with cuts in pay, conditions and jobs, and the relationship between public authorities and private contractors was poisoned. This case will show future governments that never again can European law on workers' rights be broken with impunity."

Roger Poole, assistant general secretary of Unison, added: "The new Government has

been lumbered with a Tory legacy of illegality. Today's landmark ruling is a posthumous page in the last Government's book of injustice. Hundreds of thousands of low-paid workers who lost their livelihoods will welcome this as a signal of hope."

In 1993 persistent lobbying by unions helped to force the Government to incorporate public sector workers into the existing Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations, known as TUPE, which formerly protected only private sector employees.

A year later the British Government was found guilty of deliberate law-breaking in the European Court of Justice, and a group of refuse collectors from Eastbourne, who had lost their jobs after they were transferred to the private sector, received compensation totalling £135,000.

Although some sources have claimed the compensation expected to be paid to the 1,500 workers could total more than £1 billion, more conservative estimates suggest that the workers will receive several thousand pounds each, making the total bill to the Government several million pounds.



Le Méridien Grand Pacific, Tokyo, is to open in June as part of Granada's fast-expanding Méridien hotel chain

Tokyo links in Granada chain

BY DOMINIC WALSH

A \$1 BILLION (£587 million) hotel development in Tokyo is the latest addition to Granada's Méridien Hotels chain. The hotel, Le Méridien Grand Pacific, is due to open next June as part of Tokyo's waterfront development with 884 bedrooms and 14 restaurants.

Méridien has been awarded the management contract by the project's joint owners, Keihin Electric Express Railway and the Keikyū hotel group, which owns the existing Méridien hotel in central Tokyo.

Méridien Hotels has expanded from 58 hotels to more than 90 since Granada acquired Forté almost two years ago. This has been achieved partly by rebranding Forté Grand properties. The target is 150 by

2000. Tokyo's Grand Pacific is one of 16 hotels under construction. Other locations include Mexico, Bali, Thailand, Yaman and the Philippines. One of the most fertile hunting grounds for new contracts has been the Middle East and India region, where the company already has 16 hotels. It has six projects under development and 14 sites under review.

Companies, page 46

Bupa acts fast in Care First bid battle

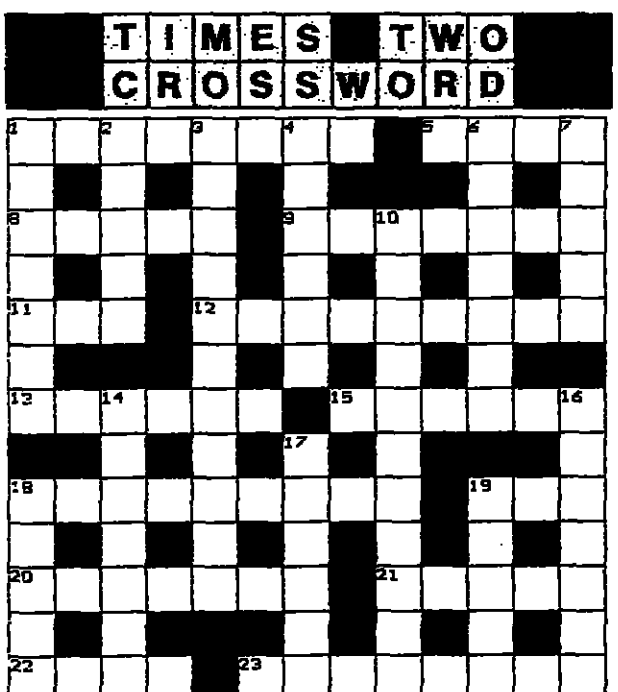
BY JON ASHWORTH

BUPA, the private medical insurer bidding £241 million for Care First, is to rush out its offer document in the face of rival bids for the nursing home operator.

At least two rival suitors, backed by venture capital, have expressed an interest in Care First, which last week rejected Bupa's unsolicited offer. Chai Patel, who resigned as chief executive two months ago after falling out with Keith Bradshaw, the Care First chairman, could reveal today that he is fronting one rival bid team. A further bid is understood to have the backing of Warburg Pincus, the US venture capital group, which would look to securitise the homes on the debt market.

Bupa's offer document, which could be published as early as this week, is likely to argue that its cash bid of 150p per Care First share fully values the company. A buyer would have to assume £105 million in debt, and Bupa questions whether venture capitalists would gain adequate returns within the usual five-to-seven year exit.

As a provident, Bupa would argue that it is better equipped to hang in for the long term. Abbey Life and Investors, who together speak for 12 per cent of Care First, have pledged to support Bupa unless a higher offer materialises.



No 1253

ACROSS

- 1 Customary (8)
- 2 Minor quarrel (4)
- 3 A tree goes, sheet (5)
- 4 Shrink and die (7)
- 5 Enemy (3)
- 6 S. Am. mammal: a *Lima* (9)
- 7 Companionway (6)
- 8 Horse-drawn carriage (6)
- 9 Reduction of sentence: abatement (7)
- 10 Garden implement (3)
- 11 Tiny piece of text, conversation (7)
- 12 Is Aubrey's were Brief (5)
- 13 Roman dress (4)
- 14 One standing guard (8)

DOWN

- 1 Optimistic (7)
- 2 Culpability (5)
- 3 You have been rumbled (8,4,2,2)
- 4 Take for granted (6)
- 5 Without effect: one disabled (7)
- 6 Book page number (5)
- 7 Sir W. Scott novel (11)
- 8 Abandoning: selling cheap (7)
- 9 Domestic implement (7)
- 10 Moral goodness (6)
- 11 Take (extra) again (5)
- 12 Safe port (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1252

- ACROSS: 1 Homer 4 Simpson 8 Ornaments 9 Urn
10 Burn 11 Straddle 13 Solace 14 Crosby 17 Agar-agar
19 Calm 22 Doh 23 Caretaker 24 Moneyed 25 Hedge
DOWN: 1 H-bomb 2 Mongrel 3 Romp 4 Senate
5 Massacre 6 Sound 7 Nunnery 12 Scratchy 13 Stardom
15 Stacked 16 Hatred 18 Ashen 20 Marge 21 Ich

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Boeing chief faces \$1.2bn lawsuit

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

PHIL CONDIT, the executive chairman of Boeing, is facing a class action suit alleging insider trading of \$1.2 billion (£705 million) worth of company shares. Boeing shareholders, including those in the UK, could win million-dollar compensation payments.

The world's largest aerospace company announced last month it was taking a \$1.6 billion charge to pay for severe production problems that would delay jet delivery.

The group's share price went into a tailspin and investors lost \$4 billion. The shareholders who filed the suit claim the chairman and a number of other executives knew of the production problems long before the announcement and must have been fully aware of them when they sold their own shares.

The shareholders also contend that the executives kept quiet about the problems to protect the stock-price merger with McDonnell Douglas. If Boeing's share price had declined earlier, the deal may have failed. The suit alleges that in June the group had already experienced \$183 million in cost overruns which it failed to acknowledge. It



Condit denies impropriety

claims quarterly results published on June 30, only days before the merger went through, had been falsified.

Steve Berman, one of the shareholders' lawyers, said: "Management misled shareholders. When the truth came out on October 22 - well after the merger was complete - the stock market reacted violently and Boeing shareholders lost billions. British investors who bought Boeing shares between July 21 and October 22 may participate in the suit."

Mr Condit and Boyd Givan, the chief financial officer, sold more than 34,000 shares after the completion of the merger but before the profit warning. The group and its executives have denied any impropriety.

Barclays silent on NatWest

Barclays would not be drawn yesterday on renewed speculation that it is pushing for a merger with NatWest, amid reports that JP Morgan, the US investment bank, has been appointed to advise on its plan.

A spokesman said: "In common with all companies, Barclays continually monitors developments within its own industry." A merger with NatWest would bring huge cost savings, but would almost certainly fall foul of UK regulators worried about the resulting market dominance in small and medium-sized lending and credit cards.

Barclays has used JP Morgan in the past, along with LEK, a firm of management consultants, but would not comment on whether they were being retained for a deal with NatWest, reportedly advised by Lazard.

Export cheer

Britain's small and medium-sized companies remain confident about export prospects in spite of sterling's strength, according to 31, the venture capitalist. A survey shows that 60 per cent of respondents think that sterling's appreciation has affected their export volumes to only a small extent or not at all over the past year. Only 24 per cent reported a significant reduction. Overall, the number of companies reporting a fall in the value of exports was matched by those seeing an increase. Significantly more companies expect exports to rise than than them to fall.

Liberty talks

Liberty directors are to meet institutional shareholders this week to try to win further support for Denis Cassidy, chairman, who faces calls for his resignation. The board hopes to find a buyer for the retailer, saying that moves by the Stewart-Liberty family will harm shareholder value.

■ **Tomorrow**
British Steel will show how the strong pound has had an adverse effect on its half-year figures

■ **This week in THE TIMES**



■ **Wednesday**
Janet Bush looks at America's strategy as the euro approaches

■ **Thursday**
John Grieve-Smith on the necessity for the Government to have an economic policy

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Barclays Life	86.00
Friends Provident	88.99
Pearl Assurance	99.00
Clerical Medical	111.20
London & Manchester	111.54
Scottish Life	137.40
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